ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GEORGE H. FAULKNER

MAIN: 216.781.3600 FAX: 216.781.8839 Faulkner@fhplaw.com

April 22, 2013

VIA E-MAIL (DAVIDENGLER@DAVIDENGLER.COM) AND CERTIFIED MAIL

David L. Engler, Esq. 100 DeBartolo Place - Suite 315 Boardman, Ohio 44512

David L. Engler, Esq. 839 Southwestern Run Youngstown, Ohio 44514

Re: Potts v. American Bottling Company, et al.

Case No. 5:12-cv-02688-JRA

Dear Mr. Engler:

As you know, we represent Teamsters Local Union No. 377 ("Local 377" or the "Union") in connection with the lawsuit filed on behalf of Robert Potts. I am writing this letter pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11. I understand that you will soon receive, or already have received, a similar letter from counsel for The American Bottling Company ("ABC"). The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the claims against ABC and the Union are without legal or factual basis. As such, if you do not voluntarily dismiss these claims within the next twenty-one (21) days, ABC and the Union may file the attached joint motion, requesting all available sanctions against both Plaintiff and your firm.

The utter lack of support for Plaintiff's claims is clear. First, Plaintiff's September 2009 temporary layoff complied with the terms of the applicable collective bargaining agreement. Second, the uncontroverted facts show that ABC offered to convert Plaintiff's temporary layoff to a permanent layoff so that, under Article 14, Section 1 of the collective bargaining agreement, he could "bump" into another position based on plant seniority, but Mr. Potts failed to respond to ABC's offer which was repeated numerous times. Third, Plaintiff waived, released, or withdrew the grievances upon which he has based his claims. Finally, Plaintiff's claims are barred by the six month statute of limitations for hybrid §301 actions. For any or all of these reasons, Plaintiff's lawsuit must be dismissed.

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I. Plaintiff's Grievances Are Baseless

A. Plaintiff's Temporary Layoff Complied With The CBA

On September 21, 2009, in accordance with the terms of the CBA, ABC placed Plaintiff on temporary layoff due to significant decline in its business. Specifically, Article 14, Section 1 of the applicable CBA provides that "in the event of temporary layoffs classification seniority shall prevail." Plaintiff admitted under oath that as of September 21, 2009 he was the least senior employee in the Warehouse Department. (Ex. E to Rule 11 Mot., Plaintiff's July 6, 2011 Deposition ("Pl. Dep."), 209:20-211:2). As such, his claim that "his temporary lay-off did not conform to the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement" is simply without merit. (Dkt.1, Cmpl. ¶8.)

Also flawed is Plaintiff's claim that ABC "did not have a lack of work" in September 2009 because "during the one year period after the effective date of Potts' [sic] temporary layoff, [ABC] hired new employees to handle jobs for which Potts was qualified" [and] "[e]ach of those new hires had less plant-wide seniority than did Potts." (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶ 7.) This claim is both immaterial and false. Plant-wide seniority does not govern temporary layoffs, as clearly stated in Article 14 Section 1 of the CBA, classification seniority does. Moreover, Plaintiff admitted under oath (i) that as of September 2010 he remained the least senior employee in his classification and (ii) when asked to identify any employee with less classification seniority than Plaintiff but who was hired into the Warehouse Department after his September 21, 2009 temporary layoff, Plaintiff could not identify a single individual. (Ex. E to Rule 11 Mot., Pl. Dep., 194:13-196:21; 209:20-211:2; 210:7-211:21; 220:21-221:16.)

B. ABC Offered Plaintiff The Opportunity To "Bump By Seniority" Into A Merchandising Position, But Plaintiff Failed To Respond To ABC's Offer

Plaintiff's claim that "[ABC] failed and refused to afford Potts his contractual rights to avoid being placed on permanent lay-off by exercising his plant-wide seniority to return to work for [ABC]" is also without merit. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶ 8.) No less than four times, ABC offered Plaintiff the opportunity to "bump by seniority" into a Merchandising position based on his plant-wide seniority. Plaintiff admitted under oath that he received ABC's offer and failed to act on it.

Specifically, during a September 14, 2010 grievance meeting, ABC offered Plaintiff a Merchandising position. (Ex. A to Rule 11 Mot., Sept. 14, 2010 grievance meeting notes.) ABC reduced this offer to writing on September 30, 2010, stating that effective October 15, 2010 it would convert Plaintiff's temporary layoff into a permanent layoff to allow him the opportunity to exercise his contractual rights to "bump by seniority" into the Merchandising Department.

In fact, the evidence establishes that the only new hires were for Merchandising positions. Given that Plaintiff also admitted under oath that ABC offered him the opportunity to bump one of these individuals and assume a Merchandising position (see infra Section B), his claim is immaterial for this reason as well.

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(Ex. B to Rule 11 Mot., September 30, 2010 Correspondence.) ABC requested that Plaintiff respond to this offer in writing within 15 working days, and after not receiving a response from Plaintiff ABC extended this deadline by approximately two months. *Id.* Despite acknowledging receipt of ABC's offer, Plaintiff never communicated his intentions to ABC concerning whether he planned to exercise his bumping rights to move into a new position. (Ex. E to Rule 11 Mot., 197:11-192:2; 228:8-229:14; Ex. F to Rule 11 Mot., October 15, 2010 Correspondence; Ex. C to Rule 11 Mot., October 2, 2010 Correspondence.) Only after Plaintiff failed to respond to ABC's offer despite having three months to consider it, did ABC terminate his employment effective December 1, 2010 in accordance with Article XIV, Section 7, paragraph D of the CBA. (Ex. I to Rule 11 Mot., December 13, 2010 Correspondence.)

Notably, with regard to Plaintiff's failure to respond, Judge John R. Adams stated during the February 5, 2013 Case Management Conference:

If the plant and the company and the union negotiated a process for a return by the plaintiff to his employment, giving him a right to bump plant-wide back into his old job or to a job period, what are we here about?

. .

With all due respect, sir, if it becomes readily apparent that there was a process in place to allow the plaintiff to return to his employment in some capacity, it's pretty hard to argue or it will be very difficult to argue the union in some way, shape or form didn't meet its obligation to fairly represent the plaintiff. What is the goal here? The goal would be for any union to try to afford a process for the employee to keep his job. If they did that, and the plaintiff chose, for whatever reason not to avail himself of that, one can be — it would be very hard pressed to say that the union didn't do their job.

. .

If, in fact, plaintiff acknowledges his knowledge of that offer and the company has agreed to it, acceded to it, then that puts the case in a very challenging position for the plaintiff. And I would strongly encourage you, sir, because the costs of all this litigation, if it becomes patently clear that this case is -- the merits of the case are not what they should be, then obviously, I will have two defendants here clamoring for costs and maybe fees, so someone better take a careful look.

(Dkt. 24, 17:22-25, 19:22-20:8, 20:19-21:2.)

II. Plaintiff Released/Withdrew the Grievances Forming The Basis Of His Claims

Irrespective of the above facts, Plaintiff's claims are barred because he cannot establish that he exhausted the applicable grievance procedure with respect to the grievances forming the

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basis for his claims. Plaintiff expressly relies on Grievance numbers 11823 and 11824 to support his claims against the Employer and the Union. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶¶8, 9.) He cannot do so. As to Grievance 11824, the Settlement Agreement that Plaintiff executed in Case No. 4:11-cv-00149-KSM with ABC, unambiguously provides that the only grievances that survive are Grievances 11823 and 4956. As such, Grievance 11824 is a nullity. Unfortunately, at no time after entering the Settlement Agreement in 2011 did Mr. Potts advise the Union that he waived and released Grievance 11824. In fact, your client's letter to the Union dated January 3, 2012, effectively misrepresents that Grievance 11824 was pending at that time when, in fact, it had been released in settlement of litigation between your client and ABC.

As to Grievance 11823, Plaintiff withdrew this grievance. Indeed, in correspondence dated October 2 and 6, 2010 to the Union, Plaintiff requested that the Union withdraw this grievance, and the Union confirmed the withdrawal of this grievance in correspondence to him dated October 12, 2010. (Exs. C & D to Rule 11 Mot., October 2, 2010, October 6, 2010, and October 12, 2010 Correspondence.) Moreover, Plaintiff admitted under oath that he withdrew this grievance. (Ex. E to Rule 11 Mot., 196:22-198:1; 225:2-226:10; 230:13-22; 233:8-9). As such, Grievance 11823 is also a nullity.

In sum, by virtue of Plaintiff's own conduct, he has no active grievances upon which he can pursue his §301 claim and therefore the claim is barred by his failure to exhaust the grievance procedure. Delcostello v. International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 462 U.S. 151, 163 (1983); Winston v. General Drivers, Warehousemen & Helpers, Local 89, 93 F.3d 251, 255 (6th Cir. 1996); Poole v. Budd Co., 706 F.2d 181, 183 (6th Cir. 1983) ("It is axiomatic that an aggrieved employee must exhaust any exclusive grievance and arbitration procedures in a collective bargaining agreement prior to bringing a §301(a) suit against the employer."); Aaron v. Ford Motor Company, 2011 WL 2149419, *2 (N.D. Ohio) (citing Wiggins v. Chrysler Corp., 728 F. Supp. 463, 466 (N.D. Ohio, 1989)).

III. Plaintiff's Claims Are Time Barred

Even setting aside the above facts, Plaintiff's claims are without merit for the simple fact that his claims are time barred. The statute of limitations for hybrid §301 claims is six months. It is well settled that the statute begins to run when an employee knew or should of known of the alleged acts given rise to the cause of action. Garrish v. Int'l Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, 417 F.3d 590, 594 (6th Cir. 2005).

However, Plaintiff's own admissions and conduct reveal that he actually knew of the alleged conduct long before this. On October 22, 2010, Plaintiff wrote to the Union accusing the Union of "failing to act solely in the interest of the grievant, and refusing to protect my interest in all dealings with my Employer by way of refusing to process my grievance #11824" (Ex. H to Rule 11 Mot., October 22, 2010 Correspondence.) Plaintiff further wrote a second letter to the Union, dated October 27, 2010, in which he accused the Union's Business Agent of "failing to perform your duties as a Business Agent . . " Plaintiff also testified under oath that he knew as of November 17, 2010 that the Union had allegedly ceased acting on his behalf. (Ex. E to Rule 11 Mot., Pl. Dep. 243, 249-250.) Furthermore, on May 7, 2011, Plaintiff filed a charge

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with the National Labor Relations Board in which he signed a Declaration asserting, among other things, that the Union had allegedly "failed to represent him." (Ex. J to Rule 11 Mot., Pl. NLRB Charge.) Given these facts, Plaintiff had until either May 2011 or, at the latest, October 2011, to file his action. As he did not file the Complaint until October 26, 2012, his claims are clearly time barred.

Rule 11 Standard

Rule 11 provides, in relevant part:

- (b) Representation to the Court. By presenting to the court (whether by signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating) a petition, pleading, written motion, or other paper, an attorney or unrepresented party is certifying that to the best of the person's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, -
- (1) it is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation;
- (2) the claim, defenses, and other legal contention therein are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law;
- (3) the allegations and other factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and
- (4) the denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically, so identified, are reasonably based on a lack of information or belief.

As set forth in detail, it is clear that you failed to do a proper factual investigation prior to filing Plaintiff's Complaint. We understand that at the February 5, 2013, Case Management Conference, ABC attorney Cintra McArdle advised you of this. Now there can be no question that you are aware of these facts. A refusal to dismiss these meritless, factually unsupported claims in light of Plaintiff's own admissions and the undisputed facts would only serve to intensify this sanctionable conduct.

If you would like to meet to discuss the content of this letter, we are willing to do so; however, if you do not dismiss Plaintiff's claims before the end of the "safe harbor" period, we may file the attached Joint Motion for Sanctions against both Plaintiff and your firm and seek any and all remedies available under Rule 11 (or other available statutory vehicles). Further, we sent you a subpoena for your client's appearance at a deposition scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2013, and be aware that counsel for ABC will be traveling from Chicago to attend that deposition. Therefore, the further costs of preparing for, and conducting, Plaintiff's deposition on his meritless claims will be factored into the Rule 11 relief we may seek from the Court as well.

David L. Engler April 22, 2013 Page 6 of 6



Sincerely yours,

FAULKNER, HOFFMAN & PHILLIPS, LLC, by

George H. Faulkner

GHF:sm

cc: Cintra B. McArdle, Esq.

Enclosures

	Vi .
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the malipiece, or on the front if space permits. 	A Signature A Agent Addressee B. Flaceived by (Plinted Narrie) C. Date of Delivery AUNC 5-2-13
Article Addressed to:	D/Is delivery address different from item 1? The Yes If YES, enter delivery address below:
David L. Engler, Esq. 100 DeBartolot Place, Ste. 315 Boardman, OH 44512	Poland, Dhio 44514
12-14	3. Service Type Supportified Mail Registered Receipt for Merchandise C.O.D.
	4. Flestricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)
2. Article Number 7012 30	150 0001 8154 1024
PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic Re	turn Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

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	PS Form 3800 August	Prof.	See Reverse for Instructions



ROBERT POITS

4143 Jeanette Drive Warren, Ohio 44484 (330) 856-6103

September 14, 2010

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 377
Attn: Justin Averell
1223 Teamster Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44502

RE:

Grievance # 11823

POSITION STATEMENT OF GRIEVANT

My position is indicated hereunder:

The Company did not apply plant wide seniority for purpose of permanent lay-off.

<u>ISSUE</u>

My name is not last on the plant wide seniority list.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Potts



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14301 Industrial Avenue North Maple Heights, OH 44137 216.475.4477 ext 4754102 216.475.1053 fax

To:

Robert Potts (via certified mail)

CC:

Teamsters Local 377; William Stimmel, Branch Manager; John Taraba,

Distribution Supervisor (all via email)

From:

Mike Bobal, Associate HR Manager

Date:

9/30/10

Re:

Grievance #11823 Unjust Involuntary Layoff



A grievance was received claiming the Company violated Articles 14, 10, 9, 8, 7, 2 of the contract by involuntarily laying off the grievant.

A meeting was held at the Union Hall on 9/14 to discuss this matter. Present for this meeting for the Union was John Lesicko, Justin Averell, and Robert Potts (grievant). Present for the Company were William Stimmel, John Taraba and Mike Bobal.

The Company points out that the grievant was properly laid-off effective 9/21/09 as he was the least senior person in the department that was over-staffed. Specifically, that though Article 14 section 1 points out that <u>permanent layoffs</u> need to follow plant-wide seniority, Article 14, Section 1 also clearly states "in the event of temporary layoffs classification seniority shall prevail." As this was, at the time, a temporary layoff and he had the least seniority, there was no contractual violation.

The process of laying off the grievant was the same method used to temporarily lay off the grievant both on 1/14/08 & 1/12/09. In both of those cases, the grievant was recalled to employment (3/31/08 & 6/8/09, respectively). None of the three layoff letters indicated he was being permanently laid-off. Each letter indicated that the layoff was for an undetermined length of time. The difference is that unlike 2008 and 2009, business needs did not pick-up enough to require a recall to work.

The Company acknowledges that with nearly a year now passing, the situation may result in a loss of seniority. To avoid this possibility (and in consideration of the fact that it has been over a year), the Company is willing to now consider this a "permanent layoff," effective 10/15/10. This will allow the grievant the opportunity to exercise his contractual rights to "bump by seniority and classifications until the least senior employee is displaced" (per Article 14, Section 1). This would, most logically be a Merchandiser position.

Should the grievant wish to pursue this course of action he needs to contact the Company in writing expressing the desire within the 15 working day period that this grievance answer is up for review. His letter should also contain a good phone number in order to be reached. He would then be contacted by a member of the Corporate Talent/ Recruitment team by phone so the driving record can be checked/ reviewed and proof of auto insurance obtained (qualifications).

If the grievant declines this opportunity, then the Company will deal with the grievant's time away from work and possible loss of seniority.

Therefore this grievance is denied.

One last Item: The Company and Union Representatives have agreed to hold Grievance #11824 in abeyance until Grievance #11823 is closed. The grievant (same in both items) has **NOT** been terminated by the Employer at this point and no paperwork stating that he has been termed from employment has been sent out. Once Grievance #11823 is finalized, all parties could move onto this new grievance if it is necessary.



Robert Potts

4143 Jeanette Drive Warren, Ohio 44484 (330) 856-6103

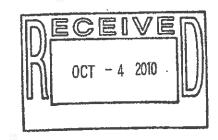
October 2, 2010

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 377

Attn: JUSTIN AVERELL

1223 Teamster Drive

Youngstown, Ohio 44502



Dear Justin:

This serves to advise that I am in receipt of the Company's letter dated 9/30/2010, mailed via USPS Certified Mail # 7002-0510-0000-7491-2152, postmarked 10/1/2010.

To begin, I hereby reiterate/assert that grievance # 11823 is only a wage claim.

Next, as evidenced, the Company's letter is dated 9/30/2010, and over a year has lapsed in time. The loss of my seniority/discharge already occurred about (10) ten days ago on 9/21/2010; defer to (CBA) Article 14, section (10) and Article 7, section (1).

Moreover, on 9/21/2010, I already had dialogue with both John Taraba and Bill Stimmel by way of my personal appearance at 1142 North Meridian Road, Youngstown, Ohio location, as I signed-in on the Company's sign-in record/log, and presented/submitted my grievance # 11824. I indicate that no union representative/steward was available at the time; defer to the Company's log or sign-in/record or "sheet" at its front door. I now herein request that my timely grievance # 11824 be processed at this time-regarding my improper layoff, discharge or loss of entitled seniority. I'm ready for our discussion.

Despite the above, at all times relevant, I assert that I was improperly laid-off in violation of the labor contract (s); defer to Company payroll records; and also at all times relevant I was not the least senior person in classification/department at any incident.

With that said, any issue regarding my lay-off (s) has never been remedied because of the past internal union matters regarding the suspension of Teamster Local 377 officials and the jurisdiction/trusteeship of Charlie Byrnes. The same issues remain at this date.

In closing, the Company's correspondence dated 9/30/2010, recorded as served via USPS Certified Mail, is pertinent evidence of my loss of seniority, termination, or discharge on 9/21/2010. I suggest we withdraw grievance # 11823, so that we may focus on and duly process my grievances (# 11824 and # 7680) at this time, as I believe the Company's letter dated 9/30/2010 was not in good faith, and is an example of fraud.

Siacerely

Robert Potts



Robert Potts

4143 JEANETTE DRIVE WARREN, OHIO 44484 (330) 856-6103

October 6, 2010

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 377

Attn: JUSTIN AVERELL
1223 Teamster Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44502

RE: Request for Status Update-REPORT

Dear Justin:

I have assumed that you received and completed your duly review of my correspondence dated 10/2/2010 and 10/4/2010 in preservation of my right to the protection of the contract. I am available for any discussion.

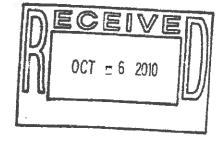
As such, at this time, I hereby respectfully make request for a status update regarding the following identified/itemized grievances:

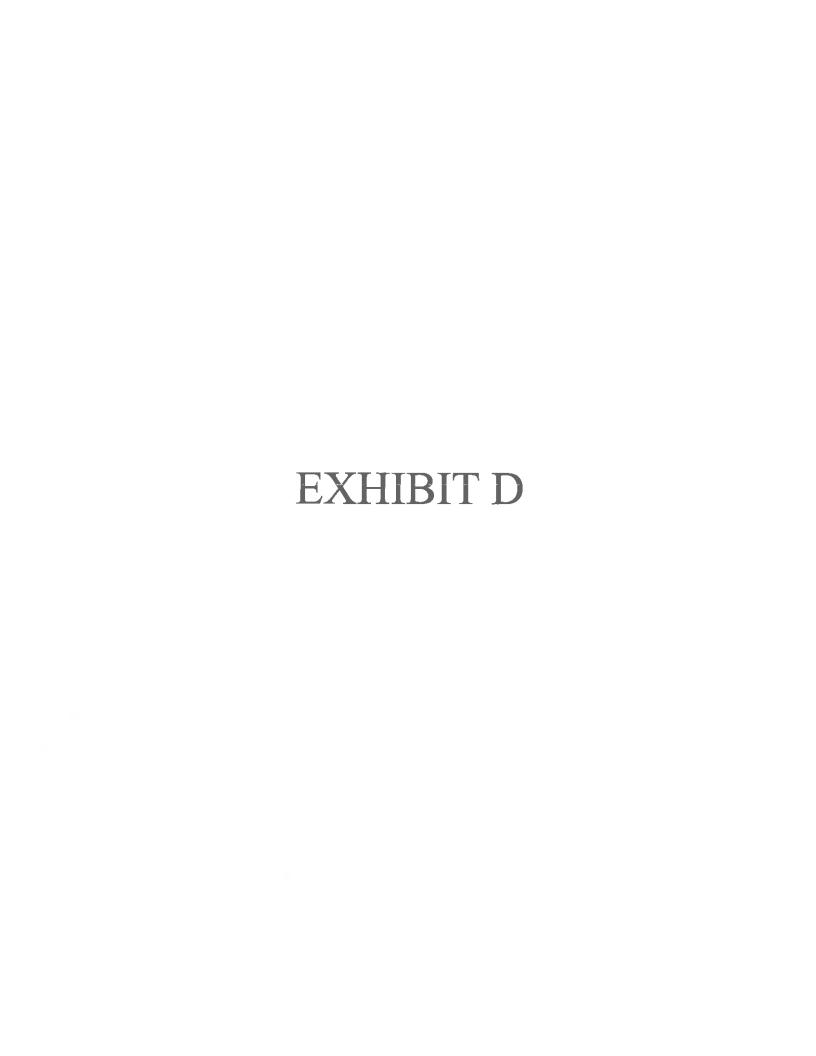
- 1. Grievance # 11823, date WITHDRAWN per my request/DISPOSITION:
- 2. Grievance # 11824, ACTIVITY/STATUS UPDATE;
- 3. Grievance # 7680, ACTIVITY/STATUS UPDATE;
- 4. "NEW" Grievance, as requested-that you prepare, sign, and file on my behalf;
- 5. ANY OTHER GRIEVANCE, filed on my behalf/STATUS UPDATE.

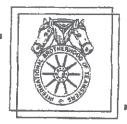
In closing, thank you in advance for any duly assistance and TEAMSTER REPRESENTATION in this matter, as I await your informative status/report or update.

Sincerely

Robert Potts







Chauffeurs, Jeamsters, Warehousemen & Helpers Local Union No. 377

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JOHN J. ANGELO MEMORIAL HALL

PHONE: 330-743-3111 OR 1-800-783-6320 1223 TEAMSTERS DR. YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44502-1348 FAX: 330-743-1821

JOHN LESICKO Secretary-Treasurer Principal Officer

SAM PROSSER President

KEVIN KOUBECK Vice President

October 12, 2010

MELODY CAMPBELL Recording Secretary

ROBERT BONHOFF

DANIEL NODAY
Trustee

DARRELL ZEH Trustee

JUSTIN AVERELL Business Representative

GERALD SANDERS
Business Representative

Mr. Robert Potts 4143 Jeanette Drive Warren, OH 44484

Dear Robert,

I am in receipt of your correspondence regarding grievance # 11823, 11824, 7680 and the request of a new grievance to be filed on your behalf covering all differences between yourself and the Employer.

Also, per your request dated October 5, 2010, I will withdraw grievance # 11823 without prejudice and file the new grievance on or about October 13, 2010, at which time I will also request a meeting to bring all parties to the table to remedy contractual violations.

Fraternally yours.

Justin Averell

Business Representative Teamsters Local No. 377

Certified Mail: 7010 0290 0003 6116 9733



Page 1

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO **EASTERN DIVISION**

ROBERT A. POTTS,

Plaintiff,

VS.

Case No. 4:11-CV-00149-KSM

AMERICAN BOTTLING CO., dba 7-UP,

aka DR. PEPPER SNAPPLE GROUP.

aka DR. PEPPER/SEVEN UP, INC.,

fka CADBURY SCHWEPPES

BOTTLING GROUP, INC.,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF ROBERT A. POTTS

Taken on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at 9:15 a.m.

At the offices of:

Baker Hostetler

3200 PNC Center

1900 East 9th Street

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Before Steven H. Henschel, a Registered Professional Reporter

in and for the State of Ohio



1.800.694.4787 www.cefgroup.com fax:216.687.0973 Cleveland: 4608 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 • 216.696.1161 THE LITIGATION SUPPORT COMPANY Alkron: One Cascade Plaza, Suite 905, Akron, Ohio 44308 • 330.253.8119

	Page 2		Page 4	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Page 2 APPEARANCES: On behalf of the Plaintiff: Guarnieri and Secrest, P.L.L., by MICHAEL D. ROSSI, ESQ. 151 East Market Street P.O. Box 4270 Warren, Ohio 44482 (330)393-1584 mrossi@gsfirm.com On behalf of the Defendant: Seyfarth Shaw, LLP, by CINTRA BENTLEY MCARDLE, ESQ. 131 South Dearborn Street Suite 2400 Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312)460-5000 cmcardle@seyfarth.com	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Sure. Q. Today we're going to be asking you a series of questions about the claims that you filed relating to your employment with ABC, the layoffs that you incurred and your subsequent termination of employment, okay? A. Yes. Q. Please state your full name. A. Robert A. Potts. Q. What does the A stand for? A. Anthony. Q. Have you ever gone by any other name? A. No. Q. Have you ever had your deposition taken before? A. No. Q. Today, since you haven't had your deposition taken before, we'll go	
21 22	SV SS	21 22	over some ground rules which you may have already covered with your attorney	
23	3	23	but I think it's helpful to do this	
24 25	*	24 25	morning as well. You have been placed under oath and you understand that means	
	Page 3		Page 5	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	ROBERT A. POTTS, of lawful age, called for examination, as provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, being by me first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified, deposed and said as follows: EXAMINATION OF ROBERT A. POTTS BY-MS.MCARDLE: Q. Good morning, Mr. Potts. My name is Cintra McArdle, we met just a few minutes ago out on the lobby. I'm here today to take your deposition in a case being filed against the American Bottling Company, do you understand that? A. Yes.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	you're to tell the truth under penalty of perjury today, correct? A. Yes. Q. Today I'll ask you a series of questions for which you will be providing answers. Since we have a court reporter, not a videographer, I would request that you wait until my question is complete before giving your answer and I will endeavor to do the same, wait until your answer is complete before I start another question, is that fair? A. Can you repeat that, please? Q. Sure. All I'm saying is let's not step on each other, make sure	
17 18	Q. And I represent the	17	that I've finished asking my question	
19	defendant, the American Bottling Company, which I will refer to	18 19	before you start answering. I know sometimes people think, oh, I know where	
20 21	interchangeably as ABC, DPSG or the company, is that okay with you?	20 21	this question is going so they start answering. And I'll do the same, I'll	
22 23	A. Sure.	22	wait until you finish your answer until	
24	Q. So if I use DPSG or the company you'll understand that I mean	23 24	l ask another question, is that fair? A. Fair enough.	
25	the American Bottling Company?	25	Q. Also, we don't have a	



Cefaratti Group

1.800.694.4787 www.cefgroup.com fax:216.687.0973
Cleveland: 4608 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 • 216.696 1161
THE LITIGATION SUPPORT COMPANY

Akron: One Cascade Plaza, Suite 905, Akron, Ohio 44308 • 330.253.8119

	——————————		
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	videographer, as I said, so the court reporter will need audible responses from you meaning a yes or a no if appropriate to the question, not a shake of the head, that won't be able to be picked up by the court reporter. A. Understood. Q. Today I'm asking for your personal knowledge about facts in this case so I would request that you don't speculate or guess about any information, is that correct fair? A. Fair enough. Q. If you don't understand a question I would like you to please ask me as you just did earlier, but if you don't ask me and you don't ask me to clarify that question I'll assume you've understood it, is that fair? A. Fair. Q. At this point I wanted to ask you, are you on any medications? A. No.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Bottling Company, is that correct? A. Let me review the pages. Q. Sure. Take whatever time you need during the deposition, if I give you a document, to review the document. A. Okay. Q. Now, are you able to answer the question whether this is the second amended complaint that you filed on or about March 1st, 2011 against the American Bottling Company? A. It is. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-2 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. I'm handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 2, have you seen these documents before? A. Yes, I have. Q. And do you know what these
24	Q. Is there any reason you	24	documents are?
25	can't answer my questions today? Page 7	25	A. Yes. Page 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. I don't understand, what do you mean? Q. Is there anything that would prevent you from providing full and complete answers to my questions today? A. No. Q. What I'd like to do first is introduce some preliminary exhibits and identify them and then we'll start into the line of questioning. A. Sure. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-1 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 1, do you know what this document is? A. Yes.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. What are they? A. Intercorrespondence between my counsel and yourself, and Michelle, I can't pronounce her last name. Q. Anselmo? A. Anselmo. Q. A N S E L M O? A. Yes. Q. Do you have an understanding that these represent what are called initial disclosures in this case, meaning that you've set forth certain individuals that you believe have knowledge concerning your claims in this case? A. Yes. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-3 was marked for purposes of identification.)
21 22 23 24 25	Q. What is it? A. The second amended complaint. Q. This is the second amended complaint that you filed on or about March 1st, 2011 against the American	21 22 23 24 25	Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 3, do you recognize this document? A. Yes.



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	Day 40	1	
	Page 10		Page 12
1	Q. What is this document?	1	document?
2	A. It's an answer to the first	2	A. Okay.
3	set of interrogatories to plaintiff.	3	Q. Do you see those?
4	Q. And did you provide	4	A. Yes.
5	without telling me the substance of	5	Q. And, again, feel free to
6	those communications, did you provide	6	flip through the entire document but my
7 8	certain information to your attorney so	7	question is, are those your handwritten
9	that questions from the company could be answered during the course of discovery?	8	notes?
10	A. Yes.	10	A. They appear to be.Q. And the information that you
11	Q. And in providing that	11	provided in the handwriting of
12	information, if we could flip to the	12	Deposition Exhibit 4, which are your
13	seventh page from the back, roughly,	13	handwritten notes, that is information
14	it's a page that I believe bears your	14	designating certain documents as
15	signature?	15	responsive to the American Bottling
16	A. Yes.	16	Company's document request in this case,
17	Q. Is that your signature?	17	is that right?
18	A. Yes.	18	A. Repeat that, please.
19	Q. Pursuant to Federal Rule of	19	Q. Sure. The handwritten notes
20	Civil Procedure 33 you are required to	20	that you have set forth in a portion of
21	answer interrogatories served to you by	21	Deposition Exhibit 4 are your answers to
22	the defendant under oath under penalty	22	designate certain documents as
23 24	of perjury. I notice you have signed	23	responsive to the American Bottling
25	pursuant to a notary signature but I'm going to ask you, is the information	24 25	Company's document request, is that right?
25		25	
	Page 11		Page 13
1	that you provided to your attorney and	1	A. Appears correct.
2	set forth in this document true and	2	
3	accurate under penalty of perjury?	3	(Thereupon, Deposition
4	A. Yes.	4	Exhibit-5 was marked for
5 6	(Thereupon, Deposition	5 6	purposes of identification.)
7	Exhibit-4 was marked for	7	Q. Showing you what's been
8	purposes of identification.)	8	marked Deposition Exhibit 5, have you
9		9	ever seen this document before?
10	Q. Handing you what's been	10	A. I don't think so.
11	marked Deposition Exhibit 4, it's a	11	Q. Deposition Exhibit 5 appears
12	multiple document exhibit that appear to	12	to be a correspondence from Mike Rossi
13	look the same but you can tell me if I	13	to myself dated May 3rd, 2007.
14	understand this correctly, the first set	14	A. Okay.
15	has some handwritten notes, if you flip	15	Q. In it it refers to certain
16	through the documents clipped together,	16	discovery issues that were presented and
17	if you the flip through them there are	17	provides some, what appears to be,
18 19	some handwritten notes. I think I've clipped mine differently than yours so	18	information about discovery. My question
20	please look at the second clipped	19 20	for you is, on the second page it
21	document.	21	states, item 7, request number 42, "Plaintiff has not incurred any out of
22	A. Two documents clipped	22	pocket medical expenses not covered by
23	together?	23	insurance. I'll let you know if and
24	Q. Correct. And there's some	24	when he does." Is that an accurate
25	handwritten notes in that second	25	statement as of today, this is dated May



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	DEPOSITION OF	RODI	LINI A. FOI IS
	Page 14		Page 16
1 2 3 4	3rd, 2011, but as of today have you incurred any out of pocket expenses that are not covered by insurance? A. Not at this time.	1 2 3 4	A. Whatever I had in my storage box. Q. And that's what I'm getting at. So you had a storage box?
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-6 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 6, have you seen this document before? A. Yes. Q. And this document is correspondence from Mr. Rossi to myself this time dated May 25th, 2011, is that correct?	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Just like a Kinko style box, bunch of paperwork in it. Q. How many storage boxes did you have, just the one? A. For this matter. Q. Yes. And I am speaking of this matter. So just for this matter you had one storage box? A. Yes. Q. Where did you keep that storage box? A. At the residence. Q. Is that your Japanette.
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A. Say that again, please. Q. Sure. Deposition Exhibit 6 is correspondence from Mr. Rossi to myself dated May 25th, 2011, is that correct? A. That's correct. Q. There's an attachment to this correspondence, if you look at the	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Is that your Jeanette Drive — A. Correct. Q residence? And in that box is it fair to say that you kept copies of documents that you sent to the American Bottling Company in part? A. Some. Q. And other documents were
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 10	attachment, is that your signature on the lower right-hand portion of the document? A. Yes. Q. We looked at Deposition Exhibit 4, which were your responses to document requests issued by the American Bottling Company in this case. I'm not going to ask you any specific questions about the document but certainly feel free to pull it out if you'd like to look at it. My question for you is more general, how did you go about searching for documents to provide to your attorney in this case? A. Please expand, what do you mean? Q. How did you I'm assuming	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	documents you received from the American Bottling Company, is that correct? A. I received some documents, yes. Q. So the box contained at least correspondence that you sent to the American Bottling Company and correspondence you received from the American Bottling Company, are there any other categories of documents that existed within that storage box? A. Paperwork in general, yes. Q. I'm sorry, paperwork in general, yes, I'm not sure what you mean? A. Just paperwork in general as documents, referring to documents, the term documents.
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	you received some information from your attorney. Again, I don't want to know what the conversations were, but in response to those questions or information how did you go about gathering documents to provide them to your attorney for purposes of this case?	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. What type of paperwork are you referring to? A. Eight and a half by 11 and a half, just papers. Q. Did they relate to your employment with the American Bottling Company?



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	Page 18		Page 20	
1	A. Yes.	1	questions concerning your employment I	
2	 Q. Did you maintain this storage 	2	want to go over generally the claims	
3	box because you wanted to keep a record	3	that you've asserted against the	
4	of events that occurred during your	4	American Bottling Company, okay?	
5	employment with the American Bottling	5	A. Okay.	
6	Company?	6	Q. My understanding is that	
7	A. I generally just throw stuff	7	you've asserted two claims against the	
8	in boxes, if it's needed I got somewhere	8	American Bottling Company. One is an	
9	to look for it.	9	Ohio Whistleblower Statute claim and one	
10 11	Q. How do you determine what	10	relates to a COBRA notice violation, is	
12	you will retain and what you will throw away for purposes of the storage box	11 12	that correct?	
13	that related to documents concerning the	13	A. I didn't hear the first	
14	American Bottling Company?	14	part. Q. Sure. And I did notice you	
15	A. Based on my opinion.	15	put your hand up to your ear, please	
16	Q. And what opinion is that,	16	let me know if at any time you cannot	
17	sir?	17	hear the questions I've asked you. If	
18	A. If I just decide to keep	18	you don't let me know that I'll	
19	something I throw it in a box. If not,	19	certainly assume you have so I'd like to	
20	don't think it's necessary to keep, i	20	make sure we're on the same page.	
21	just throw it away, trash.	21	A. Sure.	
22	Q. So is it fair to say that	22	Q. And I do sometimes talk	
23	you made some determination that items	23	softly, so please let me know.	
24	that you did not retain were not	24	A. Absolutely.	
25	important or relevant to your employment	25	Q. Fair?	
	Page 19		Page 21	
1	at the American Bottling Company?	1	A. Fair enough.	
2	 A. Say that again, please. 	2	Q. All right. My understanding	
3	Q. Sure. Is it fair to say	3	of the claims that you've asserted in	
4	then documents that you chose not to	4	this case are that you've asserted two	
5	retain and that you chose to throw away	5	claims, one is an Ohio Whistleblower	
6	as trash were not important to your	6	Statute claim and one is a COBRA notice	
8	employment at the American Bottling Company?	7	violation claim, is that correct?	
9			A. Correct.	
	A You could say that I kent			
	A. You could say that. I kept whatever I thought that I should keep	9	Q. You have no other claims	
10	whatever I thought that I should keep.	10	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling	
	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what	10 11	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct?	
10 11 12 13	whatever I thought that I should keep.	10	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no.	
10 11 12 13 14	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything.	10 11 12	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct?	
10 11 12 13 14 15	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so	10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other	10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company?	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents relating to your employment at the	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my attorney suggests anything I'm open to	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents relating to your employment at the American Bottling Company other than the	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my attorney suggests anything I'm open to any legal advice, counsel.	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents relating to your employment at the American Bottling Company other than the storage box?	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my attorney suggests anything I'm open to any legal advice, counsel. Q. So let's talk in a little	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents relating to your employment at the American Bottling Company other than the storage box? A. No.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my attorney suggests anything I'm open to any legal advice, counsel. Q. So let's talk in a little bit more detail about the two claims	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents relating to your employment at the American Bottling Company other than the storage box? A. No. Q. Do you have an e-mail	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my attorney suggests anything I'm open to any legal advice, counsel. Q. So let's talk in a little bit more detail about the two claims that you've asserted against the	
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	whatever I thought that I should keep. Q. And how did you decide what documents to provide to your counsel from that storage box? A. I just give him everything. Q. And I didn't ask you this so I'll ask you now, were there any other locations that you maintained documents relating to your employment at the American Bottling Company other than the storage box? A. No.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. You have no other claims asserted against the American Bottling Company in this litigation, correct? A. At this time, no. Q. Is there a time that you anticipate adding additional claims to your lawsuit against the American Bottling Company? A. Not that I know of. If my attorney suggests anything I'm open to any legal advice, counsel. Q. So let's talk in a little bit more detail about the two claims	



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	DEPOSITION OF I		
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1	A. Okay.	1	A. You said you would like to
2	Q. Your claim essentially is	2	say vehicle what?
3	that you engaged in certain conduct and	3	Q. Issue.
4	ABC took certain actions as a result of	4	A. Okay.
5	that conduct, is that generally correct?	5	Q. So you'll understand when I
6	A. Define conduct.	6	say vehicle issue, that's the complaint
7	Q. We'll get into the definition	7	I'm referring to?
8	of conduct, we're going to drill down a	8	A. Yes.
9	little bit more but I'm looking globally	9	Q. To whom, and let's start
10	right now. Essentially your	10	with a list, we'll, again, drill down
11	whistleblower claim is you engaged in	11	into details, but to whom did you
12	some conduct, as a result of that	12	complain about the vehicle issue?
13	conduct ABC took some action?	13	A. At what time?
14	A. I'm not understanding	14	Q. Any time.
15	conduct.	15	A. Ryan Cozart, John Taraba,
16	Q. Well, I believe you made	16	Mike Bobal and OSHA agency and Agent
17	some kind of complaint, and we'll drill	17	Janell and Agent Joe Warner.
18 19	down again and get into the specifics of	18	Q. And you referred to agent
20	the complaint, but just in a very	19	Janell and Agent Joe Warner, are those
21	general level your whistleblower act	20 21	individuals at OSHA?
22	claim is that you made a complaint and then ABC took some kind of action in	22	A. Yes.
23	retaliation for that complaint, is that	23	Q. Anyone else that you
24	it?	24	complained to about the vehicle issue?
25	A. Yes.	25	A. Just the in-house and agency.Q. And when we say in-house
 -		20	
l	Page 23		Page 25
1	 Q. Specifically your claim is 	1	you're referring to Ryan Cozart, John
2	that you made a complaint concerning the	2	Taraba and Mike Bobal, is that right?
3	operation of powered industrial vehicles	3	A. Yes, even though Mike Bobal
4	without operative horns or lights and	4	is off-site.
5	with slipping brakes, engine stalls or	5	Q. You used the term in-house,
6	cut-offs without warning and fluid	6	any other in-house individuals that you
7	leaks, is that correct?	7	complained to about the vehicle issue?
8	A. Yes.	8	A Just those authorities.
9	Q. Any other complaint that	9	Q. And, again, those authorities
10	you're claiming forms the basis of your	10	being the individuals you identified at
11	whistleblower claim in this case?	11	the American Bottling Company as well as
12	A. No.	12	OSHA, is that right?
13 14	Q. Is it okay if we since	13	A. Yes.
15	that's a lot of words, is it okay if we refer to that complaint as the vehicle	14 15	Q. With regards to Mr. Taraba,
16	issue?	16	and Mr. Taraba is the distribution
17	A. If you like.	17	manager of the Youngstown facility for
18	Q. But if I use the term the	18	the American Bottling Company, is that right?
	GE DUCTI 1 000 THE FEITH FILE		
	vehicle issue you'll understand that I'm	194	A Vending warehouse vending 1
19	vehicle issue you'll understand that I'm	19 20	A. Vending warehouse vending
19 20	referring to your complaint concerning	20	manager, warehouse manager.
19 20 21	referring to your complaint concerning the operation of powered industrial	20 21	manager, warehouse manager. Q. And you're looking at a
19 20 21 22	referring to your complaint concerning the operation of powered industrial vehicles without operative horns or	20 21 22	manager, warehouse manager. Q. And you're looking at a business card you just pulled out of
19 20 21	referring to your complaint concerning the operation of powered industrial	20 21	manager, warehouse manager. Q. And you're looking at a



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fluid leaks?

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A. Yes.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. And I believe you produced a copy of that in discovery, correct? A. Yes. Q. When did you complain to Mr. Taraba about the vehicle issue? A. Taraba? Let's see, August 11th, 2010. Q. Any other time you complained to Mr. Taraba about the vehicle issue? A. Back in 2007. Q. And the 2007 complaint is not part of your litigation, is that right? A. That's true. Q. And that's a good clarification, so at this point the subject of this litigation or for purposes of this litigation, I should say, you're speaking of an August 11th, 2010 complaint to Mr. Taraba, correct? A. That's correct.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	of August 11th, 2010? A. Not to Taraba, no. Q. Did you identify any specific vehicles in your written complaint to Mr. Taraba of August 11th, 2010? A. I believe so. Q. Do you recall what those vehicles were? A. I know they was gas fork truck towmotors. Q. Anything more specific about which gas truck fork towmotors excuse me, I inverted that, gas fork truck towmotors? A. I think I had some numbers, reference numbers. Q. Anything else that you recall strike the question, please. Anything else that you said to Mr. Taraba in your written complaint concerning the vehicle issue of August 11, 2010?	
23	Q. What form did your complaint to Mr. Taraba take? And Taraba is	22 23	11, 2010? A. Nothing else to Taraba.	
24	TARABA.	24	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
25	A. Is that a question?	25	Taraba told anyone else at the American	
	Page 27		Page 29	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	 Q. Yes. What form did your complaint to Mr. Taraba take? A. Handwritten. Q. Any other form of complaint to Mr. Taraba? A. Not to Taraba, no. Q. And when I say form of 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Bottling Company that you complained? A. You'd have to ask him. Q. So the answer to my question is no, you don't know whether he told anyone at the American Bottling Company that you had complained? A. I don't have any knowledge.	
8	complaint, I'm referring again to the	8	I can assume.	
10	vehicle issue, you understood that, correct?	9 10	Q. So, again, the answer to my question is no?	
11	A. Absolutely.	11	A. That's right.	
12	Q. What did you tell Mr. Taraba	12	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
13 14	about the vehicle issue in your written complaint?	13 14	Taraba had authority to lay you off? A. I assume.	
15	A. Health and safety issues	15	Q. Do you have any personal	
16	regarding substandard equipment, need of	16	knowledge that Mr. Taraba had the	
17	maintenance, unsafe, no horns, no	17	authority to lay you off?	
18 19	lights, brake issues, maybe electronic	18	A I believe so.	
20	starting. I said I think my words were something like stall and cut-off or	19 20	Q. What's that personal knowledge based on?	
21	something. The electronic starting, I	21	A. Him being a manager.	
22	just said that today, but I think my	22	Q. So you're assuming that	
23	exact words were stall, cut-off engine.	23	because he's a manager he had authority	
24	Q. Anything else that you said	24	to lay you off, is that correct?	
25	to Mr. Taraba in your written complaint	25	A. Unless corporate HR advised	



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1	him otherwise.	1	ask you that?
2	 Q. Again, my question was, so 	2	A. I believe it's Cozart.
3	you're assuming because Mr. Taraba was a	3	MR. ROSSI: Do you have a
4	manager he had authority to lay you off,	4	spelling for that?
5	is that correct?	5	Q. Well, I thought it was
6	A. As a manager if he has	6	Cozant so perhaps I read that
7	authority to lay off, yes.	7	incorrectly. I would think it's
8	Q. And that's your assumption,	8	COZART, if it's Cozart, it's in
9	correct?	9	your initial disclosures. Thank you.
10 11	A. I assume so, yes, he's	10	When did you complain to we'll use
12	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	11	Ryan for ease, when did you complain to
13	Taraba had authority to terminate your employment?	12 13	Ryan about the vehicle issue?
14	A. I'm not sure.	14	A. I complained to the acting
15	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	15	supervisor, Ryan Cozart, August 11th, 2010.
16	Taraba made a decision to lay you off?	16	Q. In what form did your
17	A. Say that again, please.	17	complaint to Ryan take?
18	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	18	A. Verbal and written.
19	Taraba, in fact, made a decision to lay	19	Q. Well, let's start with the
20	you off?	20	verbal complaint about the vehicle
21	A. You'd have to ask him. I	21	issue. What did you say to Ryan
22	don't know if he made a decision or he	22	verbally about the vehicle issue?
23	was told.	23	A. In conversation and
24	Q. So do you know whether Mr.	24	discussing my dialogue, our dialogue, I
25	Taraba participated in any decision to	25	stated that the problems again with the
	Page 31		Page 33
1 1	lay you off?	1	fork trucks, I'd see the lights aren't
2	A. I know he subscribed his	2	working, I see there's oil on the floor,
3	signature to a document with layoff.	3	I see they're stalling again,
4	Other than that, you'd have to ask him.	4	substandard maintenance issues, again,
5	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	5	consistent, before I returned to work
6	Taraba made a decision to terminate your	6	they need corrected and be addressed.
7	employment?	7	Q. You just referred to the
8	A. Again, you'd have to ask	8	items that you complained to Mr to
9	him. I don't know where his authority	9	Ryan about as substandard maintenance
10	is in the company.	10	issues. So is it your understanding
11	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	11	that the items you're complaining about
12 13	Taraba participated in a decision to	12	related to the maintenance of the
14	terminate your employment? A. I believe he did.	13 14	vehicles?
15	Q. What's that based on?	15	A. Say that again, please.
16	A. Him being a manager, agent	16	Q. Sure. You just referred to substandard maintenance issues that you
17	of the company.	17	spoke to Ryan about. So is it then
18	Q. So, again, you're assuming	18	your understanding that these issues you
19	because he's a manager he participated	19	were raising, the vehicle issues, were
20	in the decision to terminate your	20	maintenance issues?
21	employment?	21	A. Yeah, the discussion was
22	A. You could say that.	22	safety or unsafe, to both public and
23	 Q. You also indicated that you 	23	employees as other vendors frequent the
24	complained to Ryan Cozart, C O Z A	24	facility.
25	actually is it Cozart or Cozant, let me	25	Q. Anything else that you said



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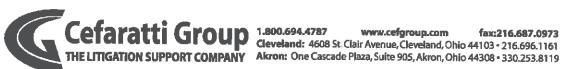
			INTA. POTTS
	Page 34		Page 36
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	to Ryan in your verbal complaint of August 11, 2010 about the vehicle issue? A. Just that dialogue and I wrote him a note the same, left him a note on the clipboard, that's it. Q. Was anyone else present when you spoke with Ryan about the vehicle issue on August 11, 2010? A. What do you mean present? Q. Was anyone else within five feet of your conversation with Ryan on August 11, 2010 about the vehicle issue? A. Not that I'm aware of. Q. About how long would you say that conversation with Ryan was on August 11, 2010 about the vehicle issue? A. Minutes. Q. Did Ryan say anything to you in response to your complaint about the vehicle issue on August 11, 2010? A. Just pretty much, yeah, yeah, yeah. Q. Do you have any specific recollection of what Ryan said to you in	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Pending change I guess it's fair to say at one time 4:00. Q. Did you ever start at 9:00 in the morning? A. No. Q. And using 4:00, would you then work an eight-hour shift starting at 4:00? A. They're supposed to be eight-hour shifts Monday through Friday. Q. Not counting overtime? A. Not counting overtime, breaks are paid. Q. So generally, if we're not discussing overtime, you were working 4:00 p.m., starting at 4:00 p.m. and then working approximately an eight-hour shift? A. Say that again, please. Q. Sure. Not discussing overtime right now, generally you were starting approximately 4:00 p.m. and working an eight-hour shift Monday through Friday?
25	response to your complaint about the	25	A. Monday through Friday unless
	Page 35		Page 37
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	vehicle issue on August 11, 2010? A. He just appeared to blow me off. Q. When you say he appeared to blow you off, what was Ryan doing that you interpreted as blowing you off? A. Just sitting on a forklift, I was out on the floor in the warehouse and no conflict, just civil discussion on the floor and that's it. Q. You said sitting on a forklift? A. Yes. Q. And you approached him while he was on the forklift? A. Yes, he's the acting supervisor when John is not there. Q. You worked the second shift at the American Bottling Company Youngstown facility? A. I assume so, they don't ever refer to shifts. Q. What time did your shift start? A. They changed several times.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	they changed the schedule or you had to come in early for something. Q. Let's talk about the written complaint that you gave to Ryan, that was the same day, correct, August 11, 2010? A. Yes. Q. What did you place in writing to Ryan on August 11, 2010? A. Unsafe fork trucks, towmotors, tell John to be aware of this, maintenance, same problem continued again as before, in the past, ongoing. Q. You mentioned same problem as continued before ongoing, are you referring to the complaint you made in 2007? A. Referring to multiple times. It was always some type of industrial fork truck problem, maintenance, safety issues. I mean, the workers sometimes have to hit the battery with a steel pole and hammer to start them. Q. I'm referring to the vehicle



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	issue though. A. Yeah, that's right. Q. So the specific complaint you were making on August 11, 2010 was something that had been ongoing for a period of time? A. Repeat, yes. Here and there. Q. Then you said a moment ago that in your written complaint to Mr. Cozart of August 11, 2010 that you mentioned that he should let or tell John to be aware of the problem, is that right? A. Yeah, just a reminder, the note was definitely a reminder. Because when John is not there Ryan is the acting supervisor in charge, open, close, lock, the higher rate of pay, he's the authority in place of John.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	clipboard, is that right? A. There's a clipboard, yes. Q. So you placed the written complaint to Mr. Cozart of August 11, 2010 on the clipboard that Ryan leaves notes for for John Taraba, is that right? A. That's right. Q. And in addition to that you also completed a written complaint to Mr. Taraba that you placed where? A. On his desk. Q. Mr. Taraba's desk? A. Yes. That's the standard pattern and practice through all my experience in 2007. MR. ROSSI: Wait for a question. Q. I'm not sure, I'm not understanding, you're using a term called pattern and practice, I'm not
21 22 23 24 25	Q. You testified earlier that you issued a written complaint to Mr. Taraba on that same date of August 11, 2010, approximately when in relation to the written complaint you made to Mr.	21 22 23 24 25	understanding that term, what do you mean by that? A. That's the usual course of business, leave notes for John. Q. That's the usual course of
	Page 39		Page 41
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Cozart of that same date did you make the complaint to Mr. Taraba? A. About the same time. Q. Was it simultaneous, were you writing two letters at the same time? A. Yeah. Q. One to Ryan and one to John? A. Yes, I sat down and grabbed a paper and pen and started writing. Q. Well, if you were leaving Mr. Taraba a note why did you also leave one for Mr. Cozart? A. To remind him, plus he's the acting supervisor. Q. To remind him of what? A. The power and practice. What it is is when Ryan is in charge there's a clipboard that he leaves his notes for John and in good faith and a	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. John's policy. Q. And in your experience, times you've left notes for Mr. Taraba on his desk, he's responded to those notes to you? A. Sometimes. Q. Can you think of a specific occasion when he didn't respond to the note that you left for him on his desk? A. Vacation issues, wage issues, overtime issues. He's hit or miss, got to remind him a lot. Q. You testified about some categories. I'm looking for a specific occasion that you recall leaving Mr. Taraba a note and that he did not respond to you? A. Well, a specific occasion
20 21 22 23 24 25	courtesy, double courtesy in the interest of safety I just provided him a reminder. Q. And I think you actually testified earlier that you placed your written complaint to Mr. Cozart on that	20 21 22 23 24 25	would be maybe in 2007 misclassifying me as seasonal, wrong pay rate, wrong status. Q. Are those different items or are they all part of the classification seasonal?



		-	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. You'd have to ask him. I was hired as a warehouse employee. Just the wrong pay rate was remedied upon grievance in 2008, 2007, the end of 2007 going into January of 2008. Chris Colello, Teamsters 377 remedied. Q. I'm sorry, he remedied what? A. Paying me my wages. Q. Anything else that you placed in your written complaint of August 11, 2010 to Mr. Cozart? A. Say that again, please. Q. Anything else that you placed in your written complaint of August 11, 2010 to Mr. Cozart? A. I think I covered it. Q. You referred to Mr. Cozart a number of times as an acting supervisor today, do you recall that? A. Yes. Q. You didn't actually consider Mr. Cozart to be a supervisor	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 4	"working supervisor" (Ryan Cozart) on August 5th, 2008, but this CBA defined "supervisor" got out of line regarding Section 2 of Article 17 conduct," and then it goes on. Did I read that correctly? A. Appears so. Q. You then in the next paragraph, I guess it's fair to say third paragraph that starts under Section 1 of Article 1, CBA, do you see that? A. Where are you at? Q. You have a line that says "despite the above." A. Oh, yes, yes. Q. And then there's a paragraph underneath it? A. Yes. Q. Okay, great. Is it fair to say that you're disputing that Mr. Cozart is a supervisor for purposes of the collecting bargaining agreement in
25	A. Define supervisor.Q. In your terms you didn't	24 25	this correspondence? A. I never got an answer to
	Page 43		Page 45
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	consider Mr. Cozart to actually be a supervisor for the American Bottling Company, is that right? A. He's a supervising authority at all times at nights. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-7 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 7, this appears to be a handwritten note dated	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	this. Q. I'm not asking about whether you got an answer. I'm asking, is it fair to say in this paragraph that you're disputing that Mr. Cozart is a supervisor as defined in the term of the collective bargaining agreement in existence at that time? A. No. It says he's a supervisor. It says, "I brought the concern upon my ergonomic issue to the attention of a supervisory member of management."
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	August 6, 2008 addressed to John G. Lesicko, L E S I C K O A. Yes. Q Teamsters Local 377 from Robert Potts. Is this your handwriting, sir? A. Yes. Q. In this correspondence to the union you say, "In short, I brought a concern upon my ergonomic issue to the attention of a supervisory member of management or who some others call a	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Again, looking at the next paragraph of the letter starting, "Under Section 1 of Article 1, CBA, "supervisory" is an excluded position for Teamsters membership of Local 377 and any supervisory employee as a member of the union conflicts with Article II, Sections 1-2 of the IBT International Brotherhood of Teamsters Constitution adopted by the 27th International Convention June 26 through 30, 2006."



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DEFOSITION OF ROBERT A. FOT 13				
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1	A. Yes.	1	had a disagreement with him before and	
2	Q. So, in other words, you are	2	he sent me home before, despite of just	
3	stating to your union representative	3	regular work schedules, you go, he goes,	
4	that as the term supervisor is defined	4	that person goes. He's the boss.	
5	in the collective bargaining agreement	5	Q. I'm sorry, go ahead.	
6	those individuals are not members of the	6	A. He's the boss.	
7	Teamsters, right?	7	Q. And what date did he send	
8	 A. I believe there's a conflict, 	8	you home after you had an interaction	
9	yes.	9	with him?	
10	Q. Do you know, was Mr. Cozart	10	A. I can't recall.	
11	a Teamster, do you know?	11	 Q. Did you lose any pay the day 	
12	A. I only assume. We're all	12	that he sent you home?	
13	Teamsters, supposed to be. I don't know	13	A. Yeah, if he sent me home I	
14	any private information.	14	didn't get a complete eight-hour day,	
15	Q. Do you know whether Ryan	15	yes.	
16	passed your complaint along to any	16	Q. Do you recall that being the	
17	member of ABC Youngstown management?	17	case?	
18	A. You'd have to ask him, I	18	A. Of course, I didn't get paid	
19 20	don't know.	19	for it.	
21	Q. Do you know whether, assuming	20	Q. What time was left on your	
22	Mr. Cozart did pass your complaint	21	eight-hour shift when Mr. Cozart sent	
23	along, whether he identified you as the individual complaining?	22	you home on the date you can't recall?	
24	A. I'm sure he has because I	23	A. can't recall.	
25	was there and it was me talking to him	24 25	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
25		25	Cozart placed any information in your	
	Page 47		Page 49	
1	in dialogue. So I would say yes, I	1	personnel file relating to the date that	
2	would say he'd have to say me.	2	you can't recall that Mr. Cozart sent	
3	Q. I understand that you believe	3	you home?	
4	that it should have occurred. I'm	4	A. You'd have to ask him. I	
5	asking, do you have any personal	5	don't know what he puts in, didn't put	
6	knowledge of whether, assuming Mr.	6	it or if he can or can't, I don't know.	
7	Cozart did pass your complaint along to	7	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
8	ABC Youngstown management, he identified	8	Cozart had authority to lay you off?	
9	you as the person complaining?	9	A. Possible.	
10	A. Again, I can't answer for	10	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
11	him, you have to talk to him.	11	Cozart had authority to lay you off?	
12	Q. So you don't know whether he	12	A. I don't know, you'd have to	
13	did or not?	13	ask him.	
14 15	A. I don't know what he did.	14	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
16	Q. Do you know whether Mr. Cozart had authority to discipline you?	15	Cozart had authority to terminate your	
17	A. I assume he did.	16	employment?	
18	Q. But you don't know?	17 18	A. I don't believe so.	
19	A. He sent me home in the past.	19	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	
20	Q. What are you referring to?	20	Cozart made a decision at any time to lay you off?	
21	A. In relation to work, eight-	21		
22	hour days. Two separate issues, he	22	A. You have to ask him, I'm not sure.	
23	always let people go home when he felt	23	Q. Do you know	
	certain work was done or if his	23 24	A. Don't know. Sorry.	
24				
24 25	authority chose to send someone home. I	25	Q. Do you know whether Mr.	



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DEI COMON OF HOBERT A. FOT 13				
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Cozart participated in any decision to lay you off? A. I don't know. It's possible. Q. But you don't know? A. Don't know. Q. Do you know whether Mr. Cozart made a decision to terminate your employment? A. You have to ask him. Q. You don't know? A. I don't know.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. So, and I know this sounds basic, but essentially you complained to Mr. Cozart on August 11, 2010 both verbally and then you left a note for him as well, is that right? A. That's correct. Q. Then you also left a note for Mr. Taraba on August 11, 2010, is that right? A. That's right. Q. And then you sent a note to Mr. Bobal on August 12, 2010 setting	
13 14 15 16 17	Q. Do you know whether Mr. Cozart participated in the decision to terminate your employment? A. Don't know, you have to ask him.	13 14 15 16 17	forth the vehicle issue, is that right? A. Yes. Q. Did you mail the handwritten report to Mr. Bobal? A. Yeah, mailed him a letter.	
18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. You also testified that you raised the vehicle issue to Mike Bobal, is that right? A. Yes. Q. And I think you said that Mr. Bobal, he's in the human resources	18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. What time of day did you mail the letter, do you recall? A. I don't know. Late, late day, after 4. Q. Did you sign the handwritten note to Mr. Bobal?	
24 25	department for the American Bottling Company but not located at the Page 51	24 25	A. I always just like this, referring to the document, Exhibit 7 you Page 53	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Youngstown facility, is that right? A. Yes, he's not local, off-site. Q. And when did you complain to Mr. Bobal about the vehicle issue? A. August 12th, 2010. Q. What form did your complaint to Mr. Bobal take? B O B A L. A. Say that again, please. Q. What form did your complaint to Mr. Bobal take? A. Handwritten. Q. Any other form your complaint to Mr. Bobal took? A. No. Q. So talking about your written complaint to Mr. Bobal about the vehicle	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	showed me, handwriting. Q. I'm sorry, you always what? A. Always when I handwrite this is the same form or scratch paper or whatever, I don't subscribe a signature upon it. I just when I handwrite, that's the way it is. To, from. Q. So you put from Robert Potts A. Yes. Q on the correspondence? A. Yes. Q. Do you know whether Mr. Bobal passed along your August 12, 2010 correspondence to anyone at ABC management?	
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	issue, what did you say in your handwritten complaint of August 12, 2010 to Mr. Bobal? A. Pretty much the same as the others. Unsafe fork trucks, horns not working, lights not working, stalls, cut-off, oil leaking. Same. Repeat. Duplicate.	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A. You have to ask him, I don't know. Q. Do you know, assuming Mr. Bobal did pass along your August 12, 2010 handwritten correspondence to someone at ABC management, that he identified you as the person providing that information?	



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DEI COMICIO I ROBERTI ALI OTTO				
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Can you repeat that, please? Q. Assuming Mr. Bobal informed somebody at ABC management that he received a complaint about the Youngstown vehicle issue, do you know whether he identified you as the person who raised the issue? A. You're saying assuming, I guess I don't know, you have to ask him what he did. Q. Do you know whether Mr. Bobal had authority to discipline you? A. I don't know. I assume he does, he's a manager. Q. But you don't know? A. I don't know who's the authority locally, regionally, headquarters, Texas, Cleveland, I don't know. Q. Do you know whether Mr. Bobal had authority to lay you off? A. It's possible. It's fair enough to say he does.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. What's possible, that you're assuming it or that he had authority? A. He's a manager, member of the management team, you could say he has authority to make a decision, company decision, layoff. Q. And I'm asking whether you know that to be a factually accurate statement that he does have authority to lay you off? A. You'd have to ask him. Q. You don't know? A. I don't know. Q. Do you know whether Mr. Bobal made any decision to lay you off? A. I don't know if he's the solo, I don't know if he's directed, you have to ask him, I don't know. Q. Do you know whether he participated in any way concerning the decision to lay you off? A. Yeah, he participated. Q. What's that based on?	
24 25	Q. What I'm asking is, do you have any personal knowledge that Mr.	24 25	A. A member of the management, member of the company.	
	Page 55		Page 57	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Personal knowledge, I don't know if he did or not. Q. And, again, all the questions I'm asking today, I'm looking for your personal knowledge, okay? A. Repeat the question, please. Q. All the questions I'm asking you today, I'm looking for your personal knowledge, okay? A. Okay. The other question before you said personal. Q. Sure. Do you know whether Mr. Bobal had authority to lay you off? A. I believe so. I don't know. Q. When you say I believe so, you're making an assumption that he had authority, correct?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. So, again, you're assuming because he's a member of management, member of company, he participated in a decision to lay you off? A. Yes. Q. Do you know whether Mr. Bobal made a decision to terminate your employment? A. I don't know if he's the authority to terminate or someone tells him or directs him. It's a corporation. I don't know who the board of directors or anybody is. I don't know who's the authority. Q. So the answer to my question is no, you don't know whether Mr. Bobal made the decision to terminate your employment?	
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A. He's a manager. I can in good faith say yes, he has authority. Q. And, again, your basis for your statement is that you assume because he's a manager he has authority to lay you off, is that correct? A. It's possible.	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A. No, I don't know who is the actual individual agent, company agent. Q. So similarly you don't know whether Mr. Bobal participated in any decision to terminate your employment? A. Sure, he participated. Q. What's that based on?	

	DEFOSITION OF NOBERT A, FOTTS				
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Member of the management. Q. So, again, it's an assumption because he's a member of management he participated in the decision to terminate your employment? A. Of course. Q. Of course what, that you're making an assumption? A. That he's a member of management with authority. Q. And that's really what I'm trying to get at, okay. My question is, do you know whether in fact Mr. Bobal, in fact, participated in a decision to terminate your employment? A. Absolutely he participated. Q. And how do you know that, what fact are you basing that on? A. He's employed as an HR assistant. Q. So again A. Or associate. Q. I apologize. Were you finished?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	document that we received from your counsel as part of your production in this case. It's a multipage document with handwritten notes on it and I'll tell you that the front page was an envelope and the subsequent pages were inside the envelope. My question for you is, do you recall providing this information to the American Bottling Company in discovery? A. Yes. Q. There appears to be some highlights on the document, we had these photocopied in color. My understanding is the highlighted portions were things that you yourself highlighted, is that correct? A. Sure. Q. On the first page of the document you've entitled it well, it appears to say in your handwriting, "Miscellaneous notes/reports, some examples of notes/reports. This is how all the workers communicate with		
25	A. Go ahead.	25	supervisor John Taraba." And then you		
	Page 59		Page 61		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. So, again, you're assuming because he's in human resources he participated in the decision to terminate your employment? A. He's a member of the American Bottling Company, he's got authority. Q. Mr. Potts, we can sit here all day and go back and forth but my question is really simple. I'm just asking, do you have personal knowledge, not an assumption because he's in management or an assumption because he's in HR, but whether you, in fact, have any personal knowledge that Mr. Bobal participated in a decision to terminate your employment? A. Personally, no. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-8 was marked for purposes of identification.)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Yes. Q. And then flipping through the document it looks like there are a couple of items in here, one appears to relate to floating holidays you were requesting and one appears to relate to payment of sick days, is that right? A. Notes on a copy of a payroll check, sick days, undated correspondence from John, yeah, yeah, sure. Q. And the handwriting on that second page looks like a note from you to Mr. Taraba, October 8, 2008. At the bottom portion of that page do you recognize that handwriting to be John Taraba's? A. It appears to be. Q. Second page excuse me, third page of the exhibit, Deposition Exhibit 8, do you recognize that handwriting to be Mr. Taraba's? Third		
22 23 24 25	purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 8, this is a	22 23 24 25	handwriting to be Mr. Taraba's? Third page, sir. A. This one? Q. Yes. Correct. I didn't		



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	realize you had taken it apart, yes. A. Appears to be. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-9 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 9, do you know what this document is? A. Yes, it's a copy of two receipts. Q. Do you understand these receipts to relate to well, strike the question, please. My understanding of this document is that this is these are receipts from the post office in Warren, Ohio concerning a certified mailing from you to Mr. Bobal in Maple Heights on August 12, 2010, is that right? A. It's a certificate of mailing. Q. And my question is, my	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Exhibit 9 are the receipts for the written correspondence you sent to Mr. Bobal on August 12, 2010 concerning the vehicle issue? A. Appears to be, yes. Q. Well, I'm not asking you what it appears to be, I'm asking you is that a fact? A. Yes. Q. Do you recall sending Mr. Bobal any other communication around that time? A. Yes, I sent him other stuff, of course. Q. What other stuff are you referring to? A. What do you mean? Q. You said you sent him other stuff A. Yeah. Q around that time, what other stuff are you referring to? A. I sent him a computer typed note or letter, correspondence,	
25	understanding, you can tell me if I'm	25	regarding payroll.	
	Page 63		Page 65	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	right or wrong, is that these receipts relate to a certified mailing that you sent to Mr. Bobal on or about August 12, 2010? A. Certificate of mailing, yes. Q. What does this document relate to, what do these receipts relate to? A. Just a receipt of my mailing. Q. What mailing? A. Notes to Mike Bobal, the company. Q. What did those notes concern? A. Fork trucks, defect, safety issues, same thing, horns not working, brakes slipping, stall off. Q. So are you asserting that this document, Deposition Exhibit 9, is the receipt for the letter that you sent to Mr. Bobal on August 12, 2010?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. I'm sorry, anything else that you were referring to? A. That should cover it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-10 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you Deposition Exhibit 10, is this the correspondence that you're referring to? This is a document bearing, for the record, Bates label ABC 5 through ABC 6. Two-page document, cover sheet appears to be a letter from you dated August 11th, 2010. Second page appears to be an enclosure to that letter dated July 16th, 2010, addressed to you regarding an outstanding payroll check. And, again, for clarification my question is, is this the correspondence you were just	
22 23 24 25	A. Yeah, I sent Mr. Bobal a letter August 12, 2010, yes. Q. And what I'm asking you is, is it your testimony that Deposition	22 23 24 25	referring to concerning a payroll issue? A. It appears to be. Q. You did not send this document certified mail to Mr. Bobal	



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1	excuse me, to Mr. Taraba?	1	Bottling Company?		
2	A. To Taraba? No, I left this	2	A. I don't have any.		
3	in the warehouse.	3	 Q. So you chose not to retain 		
4	Q. And then if you look at the	4	copies of the August 11th, 2010 and		
5	cc on the bottom, did you let me ask	5	August 12th, 2010 correspondence to Mr.		
6	you this first: You drafted this	6	Cozart, Mr. Taraba and Mr. Bobal, is		
7	document, correct?	7	that right?		
8	A. Yes.	8	A. They're handwritten directly		
9	Q. And the cc listed William C.	9	to the company, they have them, they		
10	Stimmel, STIMMEL, and Michael L.	10	should have them.		
11	Bobal, correct?	11	Q. And you didn't retain any		
12 13	A. Yes.	12	copies for yourself?		
14	Q. By this were you indicating	13 14	A. Handwritten, no. I don't		
15	that you had sent carbon copies to each of these gentlemen?	15	copy everything.		
16	A. I put the copies with the	16	MR. ROSSI: Wait for a question. THE WITNESS: Sorry.		
17	originals for them.	17	Q. If you can pull out		
18	Q. And you were indicating that	18	Deposition Exhibit 7, it's the		
19	you were providing copies of Deposition	19	handwritten note dated August 6, 2008.		
20	Exhibit 10 to Mr. Stimmel and to Mr.	20	A. Yes.		
21	Bobal, is that right?	21	Q. It's a document you produced		
22	A. In-house, yes.	22	to us and that's handwritten in your		
23	Q. And how did you send Mr.	23	handwriting, correct?		
24	Bobal his copy?	24	A. Yes.		
25	A. I believe I mailed it.	25	 Q. And you retained a copy of 		
	Page 67		Page 69		
1 1	Q. Did you send Mr. Bobal's	1	that, correct?		
2	copy certified mail?	2	A It looked that way because		
3	A. No, regular mail, ordinary	3	it was a fax transmission before it,		
4	mail.	4	yes.		
5	Q. Why did you not send Mr.	5	Q. So what is your practice		
6	Bobal's copy certified mail?	6	when you submit handwritten documents or		
7	A. Because this is a payroll	7	correspondence to the company, do you		
8	issue and if he didn't deal with it the	8	retain copies or not?		
9	union can deal with it.	9	A. Sometimes.		
10	Q. Is it possible that	10	Q. And how do you determine		
11 12	Deposition Exhibit 10 is actually the	11 12	whether you're going to retain a copy of		
13	letter for which Deposition Exhibit 9 is a receipt?	13	a handwritten document you've submitted		
14	A. Nope.	14	to the company? A. If I'm going to fax it or if		
15	Q. Because you produced no copy	15	I type it on the computer.		
16	of any written document whatsoever	16	Q. I asked about handwritten		
17	setting forth the vehicle issue?	17	document.		
18	A. Repeat that, please.	18	A. Oh, I'm sorry. I apologize.		
19	Q. You've produced no document	19	It just depends on the circumstance. If		
20	concerning any correspondence, whether	20	I'm in-house, if it's there, during the		
21	it be to Mr. Cozart, Mr. Taraba or Mr.	21	day if it's a note, you write it on the		
22	Bobal about the vehicle issue?	22	floor, changes all the time. And when		
23	A. What do you mean produce?	23	I fax I always photocopy so the fax		
24	Q. You didn't provide it to us	24 25	machine can take it easy. Q. Because you want to make		
25	during discovery, us being the American				



	Page 70		Page 72		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	sure that you have accurate records of correspondence that you submitted? A. No. When I fax the fax machine doesn't take notebook paper and other stuff and plus it looks different when it's a different color so when I send a fax I always copy, photocopy. Q. Oh, you're saying that you photocopy the handwritten note so that the fax machine can transmit the document more easily? A. When my faxes, yes, if it's on regular paper. Q. On August 12th, 2010, before you sent the correspondence to Mr. Bobal did you call Mr. Taraba and ask what the status was of your written note to him of August 11, 2010? A. No. Q. Before you sent the August 12th, 2010 correspondence to Mr. Bobal did you call Mr. Cozart and ask him what the status was of the verbal conversation about the vehicle issue and	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	layoff since September 21st of 2009, correct? A. Layoff, yes. Q. How is it that you happened to be at the Youngstown facility on August 11, 2010 approaching Mr. Cozart was while he was sitting on a forklift? A. Well, because John wasn't there. Q. How were you why were you at the Youngstown facility on August 11, 2010 since you had been on layoff since September 21st of 2009? A. Well, several reasons. I wanted to look at the board and see if they had my union dues receipts, they usually post them on the board or leave them there. Drop a note off for John I pretyped for payroll issues and I observed the fork issues again. Q. So I want to make sure I understand. You went to the Youngstown facility on August 11th, 2010 at approximately what time?		
25	the written correspondence that you left	25	A. I can't recall.		
	Page 71		Page 73		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	for Mr. Cozart? A. No, I don't even know his phone number. Q. So you didn't call, fair to say you didn't call anyone at the Youngstown facility prior to sending your letter to Mr. Bobal on August 12, 2010? A. They have my phone number, no. Q. You say they have my phone number and that's because you were not actively working at the Youngstown facility in August of 2010, correct? A. I was active. Q. You were active in seniority but you were not working a day-to-day basis, correct? A. I didn't clock in and clock out, no. Q. Were you performing work as	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. Obviously it was after Mr. Taraba had left for the day? A. He wasn't there, no. Q. And you were not currently working somewhere else on August 11, 2010, correct? A. Correct. Q. So you went to the Youngstown facility on August 11, 2010 to look at the board to see if a union dues receipt had been posted for you? A. That's one of the reasons, yes. Q. And then the other reason you said was to deliver a pretyped note for Mr. Taraba about a payroll issue, correct? A. That's another reason, yes. Q. Any other reasons other than looking for the union dues receipt and to deliver the pretyped note for Mr.		
22 23 24 25	a warehouse person and you just weren't clocking in and out in August of 2010? A. No. Q. No, in fact, you had been on	21 22 23 24 25	Taraba on the payroll issue that you were at the Youngstown facility on August 11, 2010? A. Please repeat that.		



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. Any other reasons that you went to the Youngstown facility on August 11, 2010 other than to look at the board to see if your union dues receipt was posted and to deliver a pretyped note to Mr. Taraba about payroll issues? A. Not really. Q. And the pretyped note to Mr. Taraba about payroll issues, that's Deposition Exhibit 10, is that right? A. Say that again, please. Q. The pretyped note that you were delivering to Mr. Taraba on August 11, 2010, that is Deposition Exhibit 10, is that right? A. It's a copy, yes. Q. That's the letter that you were going to Youngstown to deliver to Mr. Taraba on August 11, 2010? A. I don't see my signature subscribed to it but it's the same writing, correspondence, yes.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. That's correct. This is pretyped to save time. Q. I'm not sure what that has to do with my question. I'm just asking simply, you're saying that on August 11, 2010 you placed Deposition Exhibit 10 in Mr. Taraba's mailbox but placed the handwritten note about the vehicle issue on his desk? A. Yes. Q. You also testified that you complained to OSHA in 2010 about the vehicle issue? A. Correct. Q. You placed a phone call to OSHA on August 20th, 2010, is that right? A. Telephone communications, yes. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-11 was marked for purposes of identification.)	
24 25	Q. I'm sorry, maybe I	24		
25	misunderstood. Are you saying that you	25	Q. Handing you what's been	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	didn't write this letter? A. I didn't say that. Q. You did write this letter? A. Yes. Q. When you left the note for Mr. Taraba concerning the vehicle issue on August 11, 2010 did you on his desk I think is what you testified to, did you leave that note together with Deposition Exhibit 10? A. Say that again, please. Q. When you left Mr. Taraba the note concerning the vehicle issue on August 11, 2010, did you leave that note on Mr. Taraba's desk together with Deposition Exhibit 10? A. No, I put it in his mailbox. Q. Put which in his mailbox? A. The Exhibit 10. I believe so.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	marked Deposition Exhibit 11, I don't think you've seen this document before. This is a document that OSHA provided to us in response to our FOIA request. What I'm really looking for from this is, does this document accurately reflect in paragraph 1 the vehicle issue that you communicated to OSHA on August 20th, 2010? A. Yes. Q. Going back to something you actually said a few moments ago, I think you said while you were at the Youngstown facility on August 11th, 2010 to check to see if your unions dues receipt was on the board and to deliver Deposition Exhibit 10 to Mr. Taraba you said you noticed the forklift issues? A. When I went out on the floor.	
21 22 23 24 25	Q. So to make sure I understand, you put Deposition Exhibit 10 in Mr. Taraba's mailbox but you put the handwritten note concerning the vehicle issue on his desk?	21 22 23 24 25	Q. Were the forklifts that you were referring to having issues, those were in use at that time? A. Yes. Q. Does Deposition Exhibit 11	



	Page 78		Page 80		
1	refresh your recollection about which	1	(Thereupon, Deposition		
2	forklifts you were identifying as having	2	Exhibit-12 was marked for		
3	the issues that were in service on	3	purposes of identification.)		
4	August 11th, 2010?	4	0.00		
5	A. Repeat that.	5	Q. Showing you what's been		
7	Q. Does Deposition Exhibit 11 refresh your recollection about the	6 7	marked Deposition Exhibit 12, this is a		
8	forklift trucks that you were	8	document that you produced sorry, Mike to us in discovery. Again,		
9	complaining about that were in service	9	there's some highlighted portions that		
10	as you witnessed them on August 11,	10	we copied as is for purposes of the		
11	2010?	11	document, that's highlighting that you		
12	A. Sure.	12	placed on the document, Mr. Potts?		
13	Q. And how does that refresh	13	A. Sure, for my lawyer to look		
14	your recollection, what trucks were	14	at.		
15	those?	15	Q. Looking at Deposition Exhibit		
16	A. Fork trucks, the gas fork	16	12 that you have in front of you,		
17	trucks need attention, not safe, not	17	you've highlighted, as you said the		
18 19	working properly. Q. Sir, maybe I wasn't clear,	18	letter was dated August 20th, 2010,		
20	maybe it was a bad question. I'm	19 20	addressed to you and it starts off by saying, "The purpose of this letter is		
21	looking, and I'll point to it because	21	to acknowledge the receipt of your		
22	maybe this will be helpful.	22	formal complaint and to inform you that		
23	A. Sure.	23	an inspection of your workplace will be		
24	Q. There's a notation there that	24	scheduled as soon as possible, in		
25	says location fork trucks number 23, 25	25	accordance with the priorities		
	Page 79		Page 81		
1	and 40, do you see that?	1	established by the agency." Did I read		
2	A. Oh, yeah, yeah.	2	that correctly?		
3	Q. Are those the trucks that	3	A. Yes.		
4	you were complaining of to OSHA that	4	Q. Did you tell OSHA when you		
5	were in service on August 11, 2010 that	5	called on August 20th, 2010 that you		
6	you saw vehicle issues with?	6	were on layoff status since September		
7	A. One of the numbers I don't	7	21st of 09?		
8 9	believe was a correct number. I think	8	A. No.		
10	I might have used 40. I think it was a bigger number, but yeah.	9 10	Q. Letter goes on to say,		
11	Q. So understanding that 40 may	11	second paragraph, let's skip to well, strike that. Second paragraph starts,		
12.	not have been correct you were	12	"Section 11(c) of the OSH Act provides		
13	identifying for OSHA the trucks that you	13	protection for employees against		
14	witnessed as being in service on August	14	discrimination because of their		
15	11, 2010 that had the issues that you	15	involvement in protected safety and		
16	identified to OSHA?	16	health related activity. If you are		
17	A. Yes, I remember and recollect	17	being treated differently or action is		
18	now. Thank you.	18	being taken against you because of your		
19 20	Q. OSHA then sent you	19	safety or health activity, you may file		
21	correspondence confirming that you had submitted a complaint, do you recall	20 21	a complaint with OSHA. You should file		
22	that?	22	this complaint as soon as possible since OSHA normally can accept only those		
23	A. Yes, August 20th, 2010,	23	complaints filed within 30 days of the		
24	absolutely.	24	alleged discriminatory action." Did I		
25		25	read that correctly?		



=	Page 82		Page 84		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Word for word. Q. So when you received this correspondence you understood that if ABC engaged in some action that you thought was directly related to your complaint to OSHA you could file a complaint with OSHA, is that right? A. Repeat that, please. Q. When you received this letter and read it you understood that if ABC took some action in relation to your employment that you believed was because of this complaint to OSHA, that you could file a complaint with OSHA? A. I've been informed of Section 11(c), yes. Q. Did you file a complaint with OSHA in relation to any conduct that ABC engaged in as a result of your complaint about the vehicle issue? A. No. Q. Do you recall that OSHA also sent you correspondence informing you that they had notified ABC a complaint	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	that encloses a letter to ABC of that same date, September 17th, 2010? A. Yes, I received this material. Q. Looking at the first paragraph of this letter to you you highlighted, "In response to your complaint of health and safety hazards at American Bottling Company the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has notified American Bottling Company requesting that the appropriate action be taken to correct the situation. Enclosed is a copy of that letter for your information." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. Next paragraph that you didn't highlight says, "We have not revealed your identity to the employer." Do you see that? A. Yes. Q. Any reason to believe that		
25	had been filed?	25	OSHA wasn't telling you the truth that		
	Page 83		Page 85		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Say that again, please. Q. Do you also recall that OSHA sent you correspondence informing you that the agency had notified ABC a complaint had been filed? A. Yes. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-13 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Deposition Exhibit 13, this is correspondence from OSHA dated September 17th, 2010 to you enclosing a	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	they had not informed ABC that you had filed a complaint on August 20th, 2010 related to ABC Youngstown? A. Repeat the question. Q. Any reason to believe OSHA wasn't telling you the truth that they had not revealed your identity to ABC concerning the complaint you submitted on August 20th, 2010 about the Youngstown facility vehicle issue? A. Discussion with the assistant area director Joseph Warner. Q. What did Mr. Warner say to you that led you to believe OSHA was		
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	copy of what appears to be correspondence of the same date, September 17, 2010, to a Derick Bogard, B O G A R D, of the American Bottling Company in Youngstown. Would you agree with that characterization of this document? A. Clarify, repeat. Q. I'm just asking, am I accurately representing that this is a letter to you dated September 17th, 2010	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	not telling you to believe OSHA was not telling you the truth in this letter, that they had not revealed your identity to ABC? A. On August 26th, 2010 he said he's not going to inspect the place. Q. I'm sorry, I'm not sure you answered my question. Maybe you have and we just need to probe it a little bit more, but what I'm asking you is, there's a conversation you said you had with Mr. Warner		



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Yes. Q on August 26th that leads you to believe that OSHA is not telling you the truth in the September 17th letter that they have not revealed your identity to ABC? A. True. Q. What did Mr. Warner say on August 26th that led you to believe that OSHA is not telling you the truth in the September 17, 2010 correspondence? A. Again, Mr. Warner said he's not going to conduct an inspection, at that Q. Anything else? I'm sorry. Go ahead. A. At that site. Q. Anything else Mr. Warner said that leads you to believe OSHA is not telling you the truth on September 17th, 2010 that they did not reveal your identity to ABC? A. He said my employment was terminated or I was fired or terminated,	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	something. You have to ask, it's probably recorded, being a government agency. Q. I'm sorry. He said that he couldn't get a federal judge to what? A. You have to ask him, I don't remember what he said, to get something to go in there. I was shocked. Q. Anything else that Mr. Warner said to you on August 26th, 2010 that leads you to believe that OSHA was not being truthful in its September 17th, 2010 correspondence that they had not revealed your identity to ABC? A. I just find it odd that on the next page he says, "On September 17th the Occupational Safety and Health Administration received a notice of safety and health hazards at your work site." Q. And you'd agree with me on that page your name is nowhere mentioned, correct? A. That's correct.		
25 25	so obviously there's dialogue about me,	24 25	Q. Do you have any knowledge of		
	Page 87		Page 89		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	somebody is talking about me between them. Q. I'm sorry. So Mr. Warner said, best as you can recall his exact words about your employment status? A. You have to ask him. Q. Well, I'm asking what you recall from that conversation. So what do you recall, as best you can, were Mr. Warner's exact words during the August 26th, 2010 conversation you had with him about your employment status? A. What sticks out, he says I'm not an employee. Q. Did you ask him how he knew that information? A. No. Q. Anything else Mr. Warner said to you on August 26th, 2010 that led you to believe OSHA was not telling you the truth on September 17th, 2010 that they had not revealed your identity to ABC?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	OSHA internal operating procedures that forbids them from disclosing your name? A. I don't know. Q. Strike the question, please. Do you have any knowledge of OSHA internal procedures that forbids OSHA from disclosing the name of a complainant? A. Say that again. Q. Do you have any knowledge of internal procedures at OSHA that forbids OSHA from disclosing the name of a complainant who filed a complaint with OSHA? A. No, I don't know what their policies and practices are. Q. I don't think I asked you this question, I think I asked you just as it relates to that page of that attachment addressed to Mr. Bogard. A. Which Q. Please take the time to look		
24 25	A. He said something about he can't get a federal judge to grant him	23 24 25	through it if you'd like, but would you agree with me that your name is nowhere mentioned in that letter to Mr. Bogard		



	DEPOSITION OF ROBERT A. POTTS				
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1	of September 17th, 2010 that is part of	1	A. After the shock set in and		
2	Deposition Exhibit 13?	2	it was a little confusing, I was		
3	A. You saying the attachment to	3	perplexed for a while, but reviewing the		
4	your Exhibit 13?	4	contract, the collective bargaining		
5	Q. Correct.	5	agreement looking to see what remedies		
6	A. I don't see my name, no.	6	were available and I said, well, let's		
7	Q. Looking back at the first	7	do the wage claim and get paid.		
8	page of actually strike the question,	8	Q. And why do you believe that		
9	please. You said that your recollection	9	someone was working your job?		
10	is that Mr. Warner said to you you were	10	A. Well, if they said that I'm		
11	not an employee, right?	11	if he instead of they, you can say		
12	A. That's correct.	12	they also, if Mr. Warner said or alleged		
13	Q. Earlier you said that he	13	that I've been fired, terminated or		
14	made a comment that your employment had	14	whatever, I assume I'd have to be		
15	been terminated, is that something you	15	replaced.		
16	also recall Mr. Warner saying?	16	Q. So you filed a grievance		
17	A. Something like that I recall.	17	because you assumed someone had replaced		
18	Q. So as of at least August	18	you in your position and you wanted to		
19	26th, 2010 you had learned or had been	19	get paid?		
20	told from someone at OSHA that they	20	A. Fair enough. Even if any		
21	believed your employment had been	21	other worker from another department		
22	terminated?	22	worked, I'm entitled to pay too.		
23	A. Hearsay, yes.	23	Anybody already a member of the		
24	Q. Correct, you didn't hear that	24	bargaining unit, I'm still entitled to		
25	from ABC, you were hearing that from	25	pay if they worked my job, my place, et		
	Page 91		Page 93		
1	someone at OSHA?	1	cetera, et cetera.		
2	A. Third party, yes.	2	Q. And your statement you're		
3	Q. Did you contact ABC to find	3	entitled to get paid, you're deriving		
4	out what the heck he was talking about?	4	that conclusion from the terms of the		
5	A. Just waited on them. Wait a	5	collective bargaining agreement, is that		
6	minute, waiting on them for the OSHA	6	right?		
7	stuff but let me rephrase or correct	7	A. Well, I just looked at that		
8	that and expand. I filed a wage claim,	8	as a vehicle to address and remedy the		
9	grievance number 11823, because I was	9	wage issue and discussion in relating to		
10	puzzled and surprised by his statement.	10	Mr. Warner saying that there's a		
11	So if they hired anybody, if there's	11	termination issue. It surprised me,		
12	anybody working my job I'm due to get	12	puzzled me, scared me, made me nervous.		
13	paid under any circumstances. So I	13	So I'm trying to figure out, might as		
14	said, might as well get paid and sort	14	well get paid, just look at the		
15	it out later. So I filed a wage claim	15	grievance process for a wage claim.		
16	August 30th, 2010, grievance number	16	Because in the past, when somebody else		
17	11823.	17	works overtime and there's seniority		
18	Q. So if I understand your	18	issues, they got to pay everybody. So		
19	testimony, based on what Mr. Warner	19	I says, I might as well get paid.		
20	shared with you on August 26, 2010 you	20	Q. And going back to my		
21	filed grievance 11823, is that right?	21	question which is, you derived your		
22	A. Repeat that.	22	understanding about when you had a right		
23	Q. Based on what Mr. Warner	23	to be paid from the terms of the		
24	said to you on August 26, 2010 you	24	collective bargaining agreement which		
25	filed grievance number 11823?	25	governs your employment, correct?		



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Partially, yes. The separation of company policies and whatever they do. Q. What company policies dictates your wages and when you're entitled to be paid that you're referring to? A. They made a mistake before with pay rates or something, they didn't pay people right. So, you know, with the CBA it just sets wages for certain employees and certain departments, kind of like a guideline. Like an employee works so much an hour, per hour, rate. Q. I'm sorry. Are you saying that ABC doesn't have to comply with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement? A. It's a shame that they don't in a lot of cases. Q. My question is a little different. Are you saying they don't have to comply with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, that	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Just hearsay, yes. Entitled to pay. Q. Looking back at Deposition Exhibit 13, third paragraph of that letter, I'm happy to read it again, I think it's probably very similar to what we've already seen in Deposition Exhibit 12, but my question to you is, you understood from this correspondence that if you believed some action was taken by ABC against you that some way related to your August 20, 2010 complaint to OSHA, that you could file a complaint with OSHA? A. Same as it was on the August 20th, 2010 letter, yes. Q. So you understood that from receiving the September 17th, 2010 letter as well? A. Correct. Q. And you didn't file a complaint with OSHA after you received the September 17th, 2010 correspondence either, did you?
25	it's just a guide?	25	A. Not at that time.
	Page 95		Page 97
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Well, they can do they have the opportunity to choose what they want to do and what they don't. Q. So you filed this grievance 11823 on August 30th, 2010? A. Yes. Q. But you did not file the complaint with OSHA at that time concerning your termination as it may have related to your complaint to them of August 20th, 2010? A. Well, everything there is confusing, it needs to be sorted out with regard to pay rates. In other words, I'm hearing hearsay, I don't know if I believed the guy, I don't know what to believe at that point, fired or not. Q. Well, you certainly filed a grievance based on what he said, correct? A. Well, I filed a grievance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. Well, I think you testified earlier but maybe I got it wrong, have you ever filed a complaint with OSHA concerning action taken by ABC that you felt was a result of your August 20th, 2010 complaint? A. No. Q. Now, OSHA subsequently informed you, and maybe this is the phone call but I think you received correspondence too, that an investigation was conducted and that any alleged violation had been corrected or no longer existed, do you recall that? A. Repeat that, please. Q. Do you recall receiving information from OSHA in which they informed you that an investigation had been conducted and any alleged violation was either corrected or no longer existed? A. Yes, after the August 20th,
23 24 25	for wages. Q. Based on what Mr. Warner told you, correct?	23 24 25	2010 MR. ROSSI: I didn't hear you, Robert, speak up.



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1	Page 98		Page 100		
1	A. Yes, after the August 20th,	1	findings that the hazardous conditions		
2	2010 correspondence, yes. Sorry, I'll	2	have been corrected or no longer		
3	get another drink.	3	existed, that you could let OSHA know		
4		4	that?		
5	(Thereupon, Deposition	5	A. Sure.		
6	Exhibit-14 was marked for	6	Q. Did you contact OSHA and let		
7	purposes of identification.)	7	them know you disagreed?		
8	O Charles and batter	8	A. No.		
9	Q. Showing you what's been	9	Q. You would agree with me that		
111	marked Deposition Exhibit 14, a document produced by you to us in this	10	there's nothing in the correspondence		
12	litigation. Again, the highlighted	11 12	from Mr. Warner to you that references		
13	copies, my understanding, are your	13	your employment status with the American Bottling Company, is that right?		
14	highlights, and this is correspondence	14	A. I don't see anything, no.		
15	dated October 1st, 2010 to you, signed	15	Q. Going back to discussing your		
16	by Joseph Warner with an attachment that	16	claims in a little more detail,		
17	appears to be correspondence from Bill	17	specifically still the whistleblower		
18	Stimmel, branch manager, to Joe Warner	18	claim, who do you claim retaliated		
19	at the Department of Labor dated	19	against you?		
20	September 23rd, 2010, is that right?	20	A. The complaint says American		
21	A. What did you say about dated	21	Bottling Company dba 7-Up, Dr. Pepper		
22	23rd?	22	Snapple Group aka Cadbury Schweppes fka		
23	Q. That simply this is appears	23	7-Up, I don't know if it say Cadbury		
24	to be a document sent to you on August	24	Adams, I don't have the complaint, you		
25	1st, 2010 that has an enclosure of	25	have it. May I look?		
	Page 99		Page 101		
1	correspondence sent to OSHA by Mr.	1	Q. If you'd like but I think		
2	Stimmel on September 23rd, 2010?	2	maybe you're answering a different		
3	A. Oh, yes, correct.	3	question. I'm asking who within the		
4	Q. So in this October 1st, 2010	4	company are you claiming retaliated		
5	correspondence to you from Mr. Warner he	5	against you, what individual?		
6	states in the first paragraph, "American	6	A. On its face the complaint		
7	Bottling Company has advised me that the	7	says the company, American Bottling		
8	hazards you complained about have been	8	Company, dba 7-Up, aka Dr. Pepper		
9	investigated. A copy of the employer's	9	Snapple Group, aka Dr. Pepper/Seven Up,		
10	letter is enclosed. With this	10	fka Cadbury Schweppes Bottling Group.		
11	information OSHA feels the case can be	11	Q. I understand what the		
12	closed on the grounds that the hazardous	12	complaint says but, respectfully, who		
13 14	conditions have been corrected or no	13	within the organization, what individual		
15	longer exist." Did I read that correctly?	14	are you claiming retaliated against you		
16	A. Word for word.	15 16	for the vehicle issue complaint?		
17	Q. It says, "If you do not	17	A. Any of the agents.Q. Can you identify one person		
18	agree that the hazards you complained	18	at the company that you claim took some		
19	about have been satisfactorily abated,	19	conduct against you in retaliation for		
20	please contact us by October 12, 2010."	20	you complaining about the vehicle issue?		
21	Did I read that correctly?	21	A. Michael Bobal,		
22	A. Correct.	22	Q. Anyone else?		
23	Q. So you understood at the	23	A. That's good.		
23	,				
24 25	time you received Deposition Exhibit 14 that if you disagreed with OSHA's	24 25	Q. No one else other than Mr.		



	DEPOSITION OF ROBERT A. POTTS				
	Page 102		Page 104		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Any agent in the company, you can list them all. Q. Well, for purposes of your claim I need to understand who specifically at the company, what individual? A. Let's see, John Taraba, Bill Stimmel, Michael Bobal, any other names involved with management had input. Q. And presumably you have facts upon which you're basing your assertion that Mr. Bobal, Mr. Taraba and Mr. Stimmel engaged in some conduct that you considered retaliation for your vehicle issue complaint? A. Sure. Q. Well, why don't we talk about Mr. Bobal first. What did Mr. Bobal do that you consider retaliation? A. You know, on September 14th, 2010, upon entering the union hall meeting he was together with John Taraba	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint? A. Bad demeanor and conduct in the meeting that day and leaving pretty angrily and mad. Q. Any other conduct other than what you've already testified to that you believe Mr. Bobal engaged in that you considered retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint? A. Permanent layoff. Q. Anything else? A. Separation from employment. Q. Is that different from termination? A. Depends. Q. With regard to you is that different from termination? A. Well, I mean, I still have certain benefits that's still ongoing. I got health care coverage, so obviously		
23 24	and Bill Stimmel. Upon entering Taraba greeted me, we shook hands. Stimmel	22 23 24	that's not Q. And the health care coverage is under COBRA, is that right?		
25	greeted me, we shook hands. I extended	25	A. At this time, yes.		
1	Page 103		Page 105		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	my hand to Mr. Bobal, he didn't shake my hand and I made a comment, I says, oh, you don't want to shake my hand. And then he says we got a harassment issue to deal with. Q. Anything else that Mr. Bobal did that you consider retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint? A. Well, part of the group, you got termination Q. No, Mr. Bobal, I'm asking you, let's talk about Mr. Bobal and if we could I'm sorry to interrupt but I think we can streamline this if you just tell me the specific conduct and then we can flesh it out so you'll have a chance to explain? A. Participated in the termination. Q. So Mr. Bobal didn't extend his hand to shake your hand and said we have a harassment issue to deal with and	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. So other than and maybe I should list them so we know the universe and you tell me if there's anything else. You have stated that Mr. Bobal did not shake your hand at the September 14th, 2010 meeting at the facility, you said we have a harassment issue to deal with, you said your termination, Mr. Bobal's bad demeanor, conduct and leaving the meeting, your permanent layoff and your separation from the company. Other than those items are you asserting Mr. Bobal engaged in any conduct that you deem to be in retaliation for your 2010 complaint about the vehicle issue? A. Specifically permanent layoff and discharge, yes. Q. So are we taking the other items off the table or are you just reasserting those two items?		
23 24 25	then your termination. Any other conduct that you assert Mr. Bobal engaged in that you considered to be	23 24 25	A. Everything is together. Q. So we've covered the universe of conduct that you're saying Mr. Bobal		



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	Page 106		Page 108		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	engaged in that you believe was retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint? A. Again, I repeat and I said specifically, the permanent layoff and the termination. MS. MCARDLE: Could you repeat my question, please? (Record read.) A. Is that question directed to me? Q. Yes, that's the pending question. A. Yes, sure, fair enough. Q. And why do you think Mr. Bobal strike the question, please. Why do you think that conduct by Mr. Bobal was done in retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint? A. Because I'm not working with American Bottling Company anymore. Q. Any other reason?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	believe Mr. Bobal was part of it, is that right? A. Yes. Q. And I'm asking for the facts on which you base your belief that Mr. Bobal was part of that October 15, 2010 layoff designation decision? A. Yes, it's a fact Mr. Bobal had part in it. I don't know who he answers to or who tells him to make the decision. Q. And I'm asking for the basis for your statement that it's a fact he took part in that decision? A. Repeat that. Q. I'm asking for the basis for your statement that it's a fact Mr. Bobal took part in that decision? A. The union guys told me I'm permanently laid off. Q. So union guys told you you were permanently laid off, they didn't		
23	A. That should cover it.	23	tell you and Mr. Bobal made that		
24	Q. With regards to your	24	decision, correct?		
25	permanent layoff, and I believe you're	25	A. He's part of it, correct.		
	Page 107		Page 109		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	referring to the October 15th, 2010 date, correct? A. Yes. Q. Do you know who made the decision to label that a permanent layoff as of that date? A. I don't know, but Mr. Bobal	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. So we go back to this is an assumption that he's a manager in HR that you believe he must have had part of that decision? A. He's in the grievance process and in the wage claims he signed off on it.		
8	had part in it.	8	Q. Well, I understand that		
9	Q. Okay. And why do you believe Mr. Bobal had part in it?	9 10	that's your position and that you're drawing an assumption from that		
11	A. He's a manager.	11	position. My question is very simple.		
12	Q. Again, so you're assuming	12	Do you have any personal knowledge that		
13 14	because he's a manager he had a role in the October 15, 2010 permanent layoff	13 14	Mr. Bobal took part in the decision to designate your layoff as permanent on		
15	designation?	15	October 15, 2010?		
16	A. He had the role in the	16	A. Permanent knowledge, no.		
17 18	9-14-2010 discussions in which he left, any grievances and wage claims he's got	17 18	Q. I'm sorry? A. Permanent knowledge, no.		
19	roles in.	19	Q. Personal knowledge?		
20	Q. Okay. But we're sticking	20	A. Personal knowledge, I'm		
21 22	with the October 15th, 2010 designation	21	sorry.		
23	of a permanent layoff. A. Yes.	22 23	Q. That's okay. Do you know who was consulted in connection with the		
24	Q. And you said that you don't	24	October 15, 2010 designation of your		
25	know who made that decision but you	25	layoff as permanent?		



1	DEFOOMON OF ROBERT A. POTTS				
	Page 110		Page 11	2	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Meaning consulting whom? Q. You're right, it's a bad question. Do you know who was consulted in making the decision to designate your layoff as permanent on October 15, 2010? Personal knowledge? A. Personal knowledge, I don't know a lot of the people in the high positions in the company, so no. Q. Do you know what information was considered in reaching the decision to designate your layoff as permanent on October 15, 2010? A. One of the reasons is on 9-14-2010 he claimed a harassment issue. Q. Do you ask Mr. Bobal what he meant by that? A. He departed from the meeting, didn't finish it, they left. Q. Did you ask Mr. Bobal what he meant by a harassment issue? A. I didn't get the opportunity	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Mr. Bobal on August 12th, 2010. A. Okay. Q. Did you ever receive a confirmation of delivery for that? A. No, it was ordinary mail. I kind had messed these documents up. Q. So you paid \$1.15 to the post office to send something ordinary mail? A. I know, it was kind of expensive, it used to be 90 cents. Q. What purpose does a certificate of mailing serve, in your mind? A. I don't know. I just know that they have a certificate of mailing and I used them here and there before, so once in a while I'll use them. Q. Any particular reason when you decide to use them versus not use the certificate of mailing?		
23	because he left.	23	A. I first started using them		
			maybe in the 80's, 1980's or something,		
		23		2	
18 19 20	A. He told me never to contact him, don't write him, don't telephone him, he won't accept letters from me, phone calls, e-mails, everything. Q. And do you know whether or not that was in connection with counsel's direction after you had filed your lawsuit? A. No, it was before he was involved. Q. What date did Mr. Bobal begin telling you not to send him letters and correspondence? A. Probably October 25th, 2010. Q. Probably? A. Well, if you give me the initial disclosures, based on my memory in good faith I'll say October 25th, 2010. Q. And he told you to bring those issues to your union, correct? A. I believe so, yes.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. So did you ever receive any confirmation from the post office or otherwise that Mr. Bobal received your August 12, 2010 correspondence? A. That's all I got for confirmation, they stamped it. Q. And they stamped that at the time that you mailed the letter, correct? A. Yeah. Q. Let's talk about Mr. Taraba, you identified him as somebody that you consider engaged in retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint. What did Mr. Taraba do that you considered retaliation? A. Repeat that, please. Q. You mentioned Mr. Taraba as an individual who you believed engaged in retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint, what did Mr. Taraba do that you considered retaliation?		
23 24	Q. Just quickly looking at	23	A. Well, during the 9-14-2010		
	certificate of mailing for the letter to	24 25	witnessed and caught him in a lie saying		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	Q. Do you know what information was considered in reaching the decision to designate your layoff as permanent on October 15, 2010? A. One of the reasons is on 9-14-2010 he claimed a harassment issue. Q. Do you ask Mr. Bobal what he meant by that? A. He departed from the meeting, didn't finish it, they left. Q. Did you ask Mr. Bobal what he meant by a harassment issue? A. I didn't get the opportunity because he left. Q. Did you ever contact him and ask him what he meant about that issue? Page 111 A. He told me never to contact him, don't write him, don't telephone him, he won't accept letters from me, phone calls, e-mails, everything. Q. And do you know whether or not that was in connection with counsel's direction after you had filed your lawsuit? A. No, it was before he was involved. Q. What date did Mr. Bobal begin telling you not to send him letters and correspondence? A. Probably October 25th, 2010. Q. Probably? A. Well, if you give me the initial disclosures, based on my memory in good faith I'll say October 25th, 2010. Q. And he told you to bring those issues to your union, correct? A. I believe so, yes. Q. Just quickly looking at Deposition Exhibit 9, it's your	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	A. I know, it was kind of expensive, it used to be 90 cents. Q. What purpose does a certificate of mailing serve, in your mind? A. I don't know. I just know that they have a certificate of mailing and I used them here and there before, so once in a while I'll use them. Q. Any particular reason when you decide to use them versus not use the certificate of mailing? A. I first started using them maybe in the 80's, 1980's or something, or 90's. I can't remember. Page Q. So did you ever receive any confirmation from the post office or otherwise that Mr. Bobal received your August 12, 2010 correspondence? A. That's all I got for confirmation, they stamped it. Q. And they stamped that at the time that you mailed the letter, correct? A. Yeah. Q. Let's talk about Mr. Taraba, you identified him as somebody that you consider engaged in retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint. What did Mr. Taraba do that you considered retaliation? A. Repeat that, please. Q. You mentioned Mr. Taraba as an individual who you believed engaged in retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue complaint, what did Mr. Taraba do that you considered retaliation? A. Well, during the 9-14-2010 meeting, you know, we everybody	u k k	



1	Page 114		Page 116
1 2	he recalled me to work.	1	answered the question so let me just try
3	Q. Anything else that Mr. Taraba	2	one more time. Anything else that you
4	did that you considered retaliation? A Misleading all on the	3 4	are claiming Mr. Taraba lied about
5	9-14-2010 meeting.	5	during the September 14, 2010 meeting other than you said he stated he
6	Q. I'm sorry, misleading what?	6	recalled you to work and he'd left
7	A. Misleading their positions on	7	messages for you at your home?
8	my wage claim and	8	A. At the time that was what we
9	Q. To what are you referring	9	found out.
10	when you say misleading concerning their	10	Q. At the time that's what we
11	position on your wage claim at the	111	found out, who is we?
12	9-14-2010 meeting?	12	A. I would say I witnessed him
13	A. On the 9-14-2010 meeting he	13	lying.
14	was lying about things and I told him	14	Q. You witnessed him making a
15	don't do that.	15	statement which you interpreted as
16	Q. What was Mr. Taraba lying	16	lying, correct?
17	about?	17	A. That's correct.
18	 A. He said he called for me to 	18	 Q. Do you have an answering
19	return to work.	19	machine at the Jeanette Drive location?
20	Q. What else was Mr. Taraba	20	A. Yes.
21	lying about, in your opinion?	21	Q. Is it digital, what kind of
22	A. He said he he said he	22	answering machine is it?
23	left messages, he said he talked to my	23	A. It's got the little micro
24 25	grandmother. I said, my grandmother is 85, she would tell me if you called,	24 25	cassette tape about this big, maybe an
25		25	inch and a half or so, real small.
	Page 115		Page 117
1	she's been wanting me to go back to	1	Q. Mr. Stimmel, you said that
2	work.	2	you believe Mr. Stimmel engaged in some
3	Q. I'm sorry, she doesn't want	3	conduct that you considered retaliation.
4	you to go back to work?	4	What conduct did you believe Mr. Stimmel
5	A She wants me to go back to	5	engaged in that you considered
6 7	work, she's tired of me being around the	6	retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue
8	residence, thinks I'm a lazy individual	7 8	complaint?
9	not working, it's a disgrace.	9	A. Participating input in the
10	Q. So is there anything else that you believe Mr. Taraba lied about	10	10-15-10 permanent layoff and termination.
11	during the 9-14-2010 meeting that you	11	Q. Anything else you believe Mr.
12	considered retaliation?	12	Stimmel engaged in that you considered
13	A. Well, like I said, he walked	13	retaliation for your 2010 vehicle issue
14	out along with Bobal during that	14	complaint?
15	meeting, so this is the result of it.	15	A. Repeat that, please.
16	Q. Is there anything else that	16	Q. Anything else that you
17	Mr. Taraba did that you considered	17	believe Mr. Stimmel did that you
18	retaliation?	18	considered retaliation for your 2010
19	A. He probably participated in	19	vehicle issue complaint?
	Ab = 40 45 40	20	A. That covers it.
20	the 10-15-10 permanent layoff.		
21	Q. Anything else?	21	Q. Do you know if Mr. Stimmel
21 22	Q. Anything else?A. And termination.	21 22	knew you had complained about the
21 22 23	Q. Anything else?A. And termination.Q. Anything else?	21 22 23	knew you had complained about the vehicle issue?
21 22	Q. Anything else?A. And termination.	21 22	knew you had complained about the



	DEFOSITION OF I		
	Page 118		Page 120
1 2 3	knowledge that Mr. Stimmel knew you complained about the vehicle issue? A. I don't have any personal	1 2 3	say and regret to say but John's son passed away, got killed in a bike
4	knowledge, I haven't seen the man.	4	accident. They're neighbors so John and Ryan Cozart, John Taraba are pretty
5	MS. MCARDLE: I'm just going	5	close. When Ryan had a DUI in the past
6	I have one more line of questioning and	6	they used to clock him in and out years
7	we can take a break if that's okay with	7	ago, favorable treatment plus he gets
8	you?	8	more pay than everybody else too. It's
9	MR. ROSSI: Sure.	9	not even in the collective bargaining
10	 Q. Are there any employees that 	10	agreement.
11	you believe were treated better than you	11	Q. He being Ryan?
12	were who engaged in similar conduct,	12	A. Yes. Couple other guys get
13	meaning complained about a vehicle issue	13	more pay too but nobody cares.
14 15	or other type of complaint that you're aware of?	14	Q. Who else gets more pay other
16	A. I believe I was the only one	15 16	than Mr. Cozart?
17	who cared about safety, health and	17	A. I think Ryan Cozart even makes more money than the one guy that's
18	safety. None of them guys cared,	18	been there since the 60's or 70's.
19	beating on the forks with hammers to get	19	Q. Who's that?
20	them started with steel pipes. They	20	A. Sam Rowbottom or Rottenbottom
21	don't care if the lights work, go	21	or I'm sorry, something with an R.
22	outside in the dark. Stepping over	22	Q. Sam Rowbottom,
23	shrink wrap, they don't care. I was	23	ROWBOTTOM?
24	probably the only one that cared.	24	A. Yeah.
25	Cleaning up shrink wrap. All them	25	Q. Anyone other than Ryan
	Page 119		Page 121
1	people out there got workers' come	1	receive more pay?
2	claims, I don't have any.	2	A. Bill DiPiero(sic), I think he
3	Q. You didn't file a workers'	3	gets additional pay. I think Merl(sic)
4 5	comp claim?	4	Moyer, he used to get additional pay
6	A. No, I never got hurt out there.	5 6	too.
7	Q. Are there any employees at	7	Q. Merrill Moyer? A. M E R R I L, I think.
8	Youngstown that didn't make a similar	8	Q. MERRILL, MOYER.
9	type of complaint concerning a vehicle	9	A. And I think Tony too
10	issue or otherwise that you think were	10	actually gets more pay because he's a
11	treated better than you?	11	utility guy and they give him other
12	A. Repeat that question.	12	rates.
13	Q. Are there any employees at	13	Q. And the basis for your
14	Youngstown who did not make a similar	14	knowledge that these individuals are
15 16	type of complaint to the vehicle issue	15	receiving more pay is what?
17	or other, I think you referred to them as safety type of complaints, who were	16 17	A. Ryan himself said he gets
18	treated better than you?	18	paid more than everybody and he feels
19	A. Of course.	19	bad that he gets paid more than Sam, payroll records will show it. I seen
20	Q. Who were those individuals?	20	some records with when they made an
21	A. There's Tony Nicastro who's	21	incorrect pay rate, everybody got
22	friends with Danny up front, manger,	22	additional pay, you can see on the
23	they golf together. Ryan Cozart and	23	records certain people get paid more and
24	John Taraba, their sons was friends in	24	figure them out. But Ryan, he told me
25	school with each other. I feel bad to	25	directly.



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	Page 122		Page 124
1	Q. Did you see Ryan's personnel	1	A. It's obviously a perk, I
2	file?	2	mean, you got a problem, go see Denny.
3	 I'm not in management, how 	3	Q. Is Denny also known as
4	am I going to see his personnel file?	4	Dennis Barnett?
5	Q. So similarly you didn't see	5	A. No, that's a driver.
6	the personnel file of any of other	6	Q. Right. So Denny is no
7	individuals you've referenced?	7	longer with the company?
8	A. Say that again, please.	8	A. I don't know, you'd have to
9	Q. Similarly then you didn't see	9	ask the company agents.
10	the personnel files of any of the	10	 Q. Do you recall Denny's last
11	individuals that you just referenced?	11	name?
12	 I don't have that privilege. 	12	A. No, I'm sorry, I don't.
13	Q. Do you know how long with	13	Q. And then you mentioned Ryan
14	regards to pay I think you included Sam,	14	Cozart and John Taraba being friends, so
15	Merrill, Bill and Tony, do you know how	15	are you saying that Ryan and John were
16	long they've been receiving, as you say,	16	treated better than you because of their
17	more pay?	17	friendship?
18	A. You'd have to ask them.	18	A. They got a history together,
19	Q. So you don't have any	19	their kids went to school together,
20	personal knowledge of how long they've	20	special treatment.
21	been receiving more pay?	21	Q. And what's the special
22	A. Personal acknowledge? You	22	treatment Mr. Cozart received, that was
24	have to ask them, I don't know.	23 24	the more pay?
25	Q. Now, with regards to Tony Nicastro, and that's N I C A S T R O?	25	A. Well, he can come and go as
25		23	he please, you know, just different
	Page 123		Page 125
1	A. Yeah.	1	stuff that come up, little things.
2	Q. You said he was treated	2	Q. Do you know Mr. Cozart's
3	better than you because he's friends	3	hire date?
4	with Danny, is that what you said?	4	A. You have to look at the
5	A. Who's Danny?	5	seniority sheet.
6	Q. I don't know. You said	6	Q. How about Mr. Taraba, what
7 8	because he's friends with I thought it was Danny who was in front or	7	special treatment did Mr. Taraba
9	something like that, what did you	8 9	receive?
10	A. There was a manager named	10	A. What do you mean?
11	Denny	11	Q. I thought that's what you were saying, that Mr. Cozart and Mr.
12	Q. Denny, okay.	12	Taraba both were treated better than
13	A that he was friends with.	13	you?
14	I think he got him hired in there, so	14	A. Mr. Taraba is a manager, he
15	he got some influence from the front,	15	can do whatever he wants, he can go
16	quess.	16	golfing late in the day if he wants.
17	Q. And Tony, do you know his	17	Q. Now, you said Mr. Nicastro
18	hire date?	18	is a utility person?
19	A. Yeah, I have to look at the	19	A. Yeah.
20	seniority sheet.	20	Q. Mr. Rowbottom, warehouse
21	Q. So the basis for your	21	position?
22	statement that Mr. Nicastro was treated	22	A. The morning day turn, yes.
23	better than you is because he's friends	23	Q. Mr. Moyer is also a
24	with Denny or when Denny worked there he	24	warehouse position?
25	was friends with Denny?	25	A. He used to be. I mean,



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1	whatever, I believe so, yeah, warehouse.	1	or something.
2	I heard he got hurt so they put him on	2	Q. So you claim that ABC should
3	light duty or changed his job because	3	have issued a COBRA notice to you within
4	he's got more seniority. Maybe used the	4	44 days of your termination, is that
5	procedure to bump somebody out or maybe	5	right?
6	they posted the job, because he's	6	A. Is that the law?
7	probably number two so he probably	7	Q. Well, I'm asking what your
8	bumped somebody out because he can do	8	claim is.
9	that.	9	A. Of course.
10	Q. Was Mr. Moyer morning as	10	Q. Do you know why ABC didn't
11	well at the time you were aware of him?	11	issue a COBRA notice until February
12	A. I think at that time he was.	12	18th, 2011?
13	I think he bumped somebody or	13	A. Because they're dealing with
14	transferred or they created a special	14	this situation in litigation.
15	job for him.	15	Q. You're guessing, right?
16	Q. How about Mr. DiPietro, he's	16	A. I don't know why that they
17	warehouse, was he morning as well?	17	did that, you have to ask hem.
18	A. He was excuse me, sorry,	18	Q. Do you know whether ABC has
19	he was nights just like me. He got	19	a third party administrator that handles
20	hurt too for a while, I don't know if	20	the issuance of COBRA notices?
21	they put him on light duty.	21	A. Yeah, we went round and
22	Q. What about Mr. Nicastro, he's	22	round with you with Hewitt Associates,
23	warehouse oh, no, I'm sorry, you said	23	and you said don't call them and then
24 25	utility?	24	you said call them, so we got a lot of
25	A. Yes.	25	confusion back and forth.
	Page 127		Page 129
1	Q. Morning or night?	1	Q. Well, sir, I don't know what
2	A. Oh, gee, I think he I	2	your attorney imparted to you as to
3	don't know if he had a floating	3	communications that I had with him
4	schedule. I think he come in after	4	because I certainly haven't talked to
5	noon or late morning. His shift	5	you before today, is that right?
6	interacted with mine. In other words,	6	A. Sure, sure.
7	he was earlier than my time.	7	Q. Do you know whether any
8	Q. Earlier than your time of	8	computer system errors may have occurred
9	employment or earlier than your start	9	that impacted the issuance of the COBRA
10	time?	10	notice to you?
11	A. Start time.	11	A. Not that I know of.
12	Q. Now, let's just touch upon	12	Q. Do you have any personal
13	your COBRA claim really briefly. My	13	knowledge about computer error issues
14 15	understanding is that your COBRA claim	14	that may have occurred in relation to
16	is that you claim the COBRA notice	15 16	the issuance of your COBRA notice?
17	issued to you by ABC was not timely?	17	A. I don't work in
18	MR. ROSSI: I'm sorry, was not what?	18	administrative computer programing, no.
19	Q. Timely.	19	I don't know, you have to ask them. Q. A subsequent COBRA notice was
20	A. That's true, that's a fact.	20	issued on or about March 23rd, 2011 to
21	Q. That's the basis of your	21	you, correct?
22	claim, is that you're saying that the	22	A. I believe so.
23	COBRA notice issued by ABC was not	23	Q. So just a little over a
24	timely?	24	month after the first notice went out
25	A. I got it the end of February	25	you received another notice, correct?
	mi igotituo ona on Goldaly		Journous and the Hottle, COHECT:



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Yes, due to all the confusing phone calls back and forth. Q. And then that notice, I believe, gave you until May 29th, 2011 to elect COBRA, correct? A. I not sure, the paperwork is not in front of me. I assume so. Q. And you said you're currently receiving health benefits through COBRA, correct? A. Yes, I have benefits. Q. Is that dental only? A. At this time. Q. Looking back at Deposition Exhibit 1, the complaint. A. You said 1? I'm sorry. Q. Yes. Deposition Exhibit 1. A. I got a little disorganized here, I apologize. I'm sorry. After the holiday weekend. Q. Looking at that document you would agree with me that that complaint was filed on March 1st, 2011?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	2007, recognizing this is OSHA's document to you, do the complaint items that OSHA has listed accurately reflect the complaint you raised to OSHA on September 20, 07? A. Say that again, please. Q. Do the complaint items that OSHA has listed in its letter to you of September 27th, 07 accurately reflect the items that you raised to OSHA around that time? And if it makes it easier I'm specifically looking at how in the letter it says complaint item 1 and then it states something, complaint item 2 and then it states something, as opposed to the results of the OSHA investigation. A. Appears to be, yes. Q. Earlier in your testimony you said that you had gone to the Youngstown facility on August 11th, 2010 and that's when you had the conversation with Mr. Cozart you've already testified to,
24	A. I have to look. I don't see	24	correct?
25	a time stamp. Yeah, yeah.	25	A. Correct.
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. And that is the first complaint you asserted the COBRA notice violation, correct? A. Yes. MS. MCARDLE: Let's take a break. MR. ROSSI: Okay. (Recess had.) (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-15 was marked for purposes of identification.) BY MS. MCARDLE: Q. Mr. Potts, I'm showing you Deposition Exhibit 15, this is the letter that you produced and it appears to be correspondence from OSHA dated September 27th, 2007, addressed to you from a Robin Medlock, M E D L O C K. Now, again, your claim in this lawsuit does not relate to the 2007 complaint to	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 21 22 21 22 22 23 24 24 25 26 26 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27	Q. Prior to August 11th, 2010 when was the last time you had physically set foot in the Youngstown facility? A. I can't recall. Q. Was it six months before, could it have been longer than six months before? A. Maybe yeah, longer than six months, definitely. Q. So you hadn't the earliest time, I guess, you had been at the Youngstown facility, according to your testimony then, prior to August 11th, 2010 was maybe sometime in January or February of 2010, if not earlier? A. Probably earlier. Q. So how about let me ask you this question then: Do you believe between September 21st of 09 and December 31st of 09 you set foot inside
22 23 24 25	OSHA, you testified earlier, correct? A. Yes. Q. But in looking at this complaint that you made in September of	22 23 24 25	the Youngstown facility? A. Say that again, please. Q. Do you believe that between September 21st of 09, your layoff, and



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	December 31st of 09 you set foot inside the Youngstown facility? A. December 31st, 2009? Q. Correct. A. No. Q. Do you believe then that the August 11th, 2010 date was the first time you had set foot in the facility since your layoff of September of 09? A. That sounds about right. Q. Now, you didn't file any kind of complaint concerning the vehicle issue with any other public agency other than OSHA, is that right? A. That's the only agency. Q. And you didn't file a police report concerning anything concerning the vehicle issue either, correct? A. OSHA has the authority, no. Q. And do you know what	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Yeah, yes. Q. Is that your handwriting? A. It appears to be. Q. And this is a copy of the agreement between Seven Up Youngstown, a subsidiary of the Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up Bottling Grcup, DPSUBG, and Teamsters Local 377 for the period January 29, 2006 through January 28, 2010, correct? A. Absolutely. Q. Is it your understanding that the terms of this agreement governed your participation in the bargaining unit for Teamsters Local 377 during those dates? A. What do you mean? Q. If you had a question concerning wages, vacation, or otherwise, as a member of the bargaining unit for Teamsters Local 377 you'd pick
21 22	penalties OSHA would apply to the type	21 22	up the contract and look at it, correct?
23	of issues you were raising in 2010 concerning	23	A. Sure, sure. Q. This document for ease is
24	A. What do you mean?	24	Bates labeled ABC 56 through ABC 77, if
25	Q. Do you know what penalties,	25	you could turn to ABC 59 for me,
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	if any, OSHA would apply or be able to apply to the type of issues you raised that were the vehicle issues? A. Whatever they decide. Q. So you don't know kind of the universe of penalties OSHA may be able to apply to the vehicle issues you raised in 2010? A. I'm not familiar with all that code language. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-16 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 16, you have seen this document before, correct?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	please, and let me know when you're there. A. I'm there. Q. Section 1 under Article 1, recognition, the last sentence of Section 1 states, "Delivery drivers, warehousemen, vendor special service employees and merchandisers are sometimes hereinafter referred to collectively as 'employees'." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood after you reviewed the contract that at times during the contract when the contract referred to employees that it meant collectively those categories of services?
19	A. Yes.	19	A. Yeah, it's strange it doesn't
20	Q. And actually if you would	20	say utility. Yes. I never knew that.
21	flip through Deposition Exhibit 16	21	MR. ROSSI: Wait for a question.
22 23	there's some handwriting throughout the document. Do you agree with me there's	22 23	THE WITNESS: Sorry.
24	some handwriting throughout that	23 24	Q. Turning to the next page, there's a section entitled probationary
25	document?	25	employees, do you see that?



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Yes. Q. The section, numbered Section 3 and it starts, "A new employee shall work under the provision of this agreement but shall be employed on a trial basis until he has actually worked 90 days within six calendar months, during which period he may be discharged without further recourse," and then it goes on. Did I read that portion correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood that when you started with ABC that you were a probationary employee until a period of 90 days had elapsed at which time you may be retained? A. Correct. Q. Last sentence of that section states, "During the probationary period a new employee shall be paid the wage rates in Article X, Section 2," and then there's some handwriting.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	at Article 3, management, Section 1. This states, "It is agreed that the operation of the territories and the direction of the delivery drivers and all other employees, including the making and enforcing of rules to insure orderly and efficient territory and warehouse/special services operation, including the increase or decrease of territories, the determining of same employees competency, the right to hire, to transfer, to promote, to demote, to discharge for cause, to lay off for lack of work, are rights vested exclusively in the management of the company." Did I read that correctly? A. Very good. Q. Did I read that correctly? A. Yes. Q. Thank you. So you understood by reading this clause that there were certain employment actions that management reserved exclusive right
24	A. Okay.	24	to make, correct?
25	Q. Did I read the section of	25	A. Right.
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. It appears so. Q. Then there's a section next that follows, I should say, called seasonal employees, and that's Section 4. And this reads in part, "Seasonal employees may be hired from April 1st to September 30th inclusive and November 1st to January 15th inclusive. Seasonal employees shall be required to join the union after 30 days worked for the employer in any one or more seasonal periods, provided, however, seasonal employees will not be entitled to any contractual benefits other than the negotiated wage stated in Article X, Section 3 of this agreement." Did i read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood by reading this agreement that Dr. Pepper could hire seasonal employees during those designated time frames, correct? A. Sure.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. Have you heard of this clause referred to as the management rights clause? A. Yes. Q. Turning to ABC 63. A. Say that again, please. Q. Sure. MR. ROSSI: 63. Q. ABC 63. A. Got it, got it. Q. This is Article 7 as it relates to grievance procedures and I'm looking specifically at Section 2-Step 1, do you see that section? A. Yes. Q. And that says in part, "If an employee has a grievance he shall reduce such grievance in writing and present it to the company within five working days after its alleged occurrence." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood that if you did have a grievance with company



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	do so within five working day after the alleged incident had occurred? A. Five working days, yes. Q. Let's turn to ABC 65, a section called call back pay, Section 4, and I can certainly read that into the record but my question for you is this, please read that Section 4 and let me know what you've done so. A. Okay. Q. So from reading the contract you understood that merchandisers may work up to seven days a week, the first five days eight-hour shifts at regular rate, sixth day one and a half times their regular rate, seventh day at two times their regular rate? A. That's what it says, it indicates it. Q. Turn to ABC 67, Section 8, and this is part of Article X, wages. This states, "In the event any employee is transferred or assigned by the	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. All right. Section 1, this section states in part, "The seniority rights of all employees shall be determined from the last date of hiring. Immediately after signing this agreement a seniority list for delivery drivers, a seniority list for warehousemen and a seniority list for special service employees, merchandisers and utility as well as a plant-wide seniority will be posted upon the bulletin board for a period of 30 days, after which the list will be deemed to be correct." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood that after this contract was entered into and a seniority list had been posted, 30 days after the posting of that that seniority list was correct and what the company would use for purposes of any employment decisions, correct? A. Unless in a dispute, correct.
24 25	employer to work in a different classification they shall be paid the	24 25	Q. Unless a dispute of what?
25		25	A. The next couple sentences.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	highest prevailing rate for all hours of work (any employee in a I rate shall be transferred at the I rate. Any employee in a II rate shall be transferred at the II rate shall be transferred at the II rate shall be transferred at the II rate)." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood that in the event an employee was transferred or reassigned by the company to a different job classification they would be making the highest prevailing rate for their work, correct? A. Correct. Q. And by job classification, I think we've been referring to that throughout the deposition, but that includes things like drivers, vending, warehouse, and merchandising, correct? A. Correct. Q. Let's turn to ABC 69, Article 14, seniority. A. Oh, sorry. Q. Are you there? A. Yes.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Okay. But prior to the next couple sentences, because I think we're missing each other on this, that under the terms of the contract, if there's no challenge to that seniority list within 30 days of executing the contract that list is deemed correct? A. From the CBA 2006 to 2010. Q. Yes. A. Yes. Q. Now, the next section that you're alluding to reads, "In addition, upon request from the union, the company shall provide seniority lists for all classifications as well as plant-wide seniority every six months. In any case of a dispute the records of the company shall be binding unless proven incorrect." Did I read that section correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood the union had the ability to request from the company seniority lists every six months for all classifications as well as



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	plant-wide seniority, correct? A. Correct. Q. And that if there was dispute about seniority or those lists, that company records were binding unless there was proof they were not correct? A. Yeah, if somebody chose otherwise, yeah. Q. The next section, "Plant-wide seniority shall apply for purposes of permanent layoff, recall from layoff and job/annual bidding. However, in the event of a permanent layoff due to elimination of a position the affected employees are entitled to bump by seniority and qualifications until the least senior employee is displaced, in the event of temporary layoffs classification seniority shall prevail." Did I read that correctly? A. Yes. May I also have a pen, please? Q. Did you want to write on the exhibit?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	the event of any temporary layoff, classification seniority prevails, correct? A. Yes. Q. Let's turn to ABC 70. I'm looking at Section 9 which is still part of seniority. It states in part, "Under the following conditions any employee shall lose his seniority (terminated " it says fro employment, close parens, but you'd agree with me that probably should say for or from employment, excuse me, correct? A. Sure. Q. Makes more sense if it says terminated from employment than terminated fro employment? A. Sure, a typo. Q. Right. And then it lists a number of these conditions under which an employee shall lose seniority, including subsection D on the next page, ABC 71, which states, "If he fails to return to work within three days after		
25	A. Am I allowed?	25	notice from the company to return unless		
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. Sure. If you'd like to. A. Or a highlighter, can I use a highlighter? Q. So there's no confusion why don't we use the blue pen A. All right. Q because I think there's black on there currently. A. Sure. Q. So from this section you understood that in the event of a permanent layoff, recall from layoff or job/annual bidding, plant-wide seniority shall apply, correct? A. Yes. Q. Then you also understood though that there was an exception that stated, "In the event of a permanent layoff due to elimination of a position, the affected employees are entitled to bump by seniority and qualifications until the least senior employee is displaced," correct?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	circumstances beyond his control prevent him from notifying the company within three days. Such notice shall be made by registered letter or telegram." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. So you understood then if the company did contact you to return to work and you didn't respend in any way, shape or form within three days you could lose your seniority, correct? A. Sure. Q. And be terminated, in fact, correct? A. Sure. Q. Section 13, still in seniority, same page, ABC 71, this reads, "If an employee is on an involuntary layoff he will not lose his seniority for a period of one year from the date of layoff." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word.		
24 25	A. Correct. Q. And that temporary layoff, in	24 25	MR. ROSSI: Where is she reading? MS. MCARDLE: Section 13, Mike.		



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	MR. ROSSI: Thank you. Q. Certainly you understood that if you were placed on layoff you maintained your seniority for a period of one year, correct? A. Yes. Q. But beyond that, if you were laid off for more than one year you lost your seniority, correct? A. Yes, lost everything, yes. Q. Lost everything meaning what, you were terminated at that point? A. Union benefits, union wages. Q. Turning to ABC 72, Article 16, health and welfare, do you see where I am at the bottom of the page? A. What page? Q. The bottom of MR. ROSSI: 72. Q 72. Thanks, Mike. A. Oh, yes, yes, yes. Q. Article 16, health and welfare, Section 1, health and dental insurance. This section states in part,	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. So from reviewing the collective bargaining agreement you understood that up to the maximum of six merchandisers who had achieved 2,000 work hours in a year were entitled to health benefits under the plan, correct? A. Yeah, those guys are lucky, yeah, they're allowed. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-17 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 17, have you seen this document before? A. Yes. Q. This is the agreement between 7-Up Youngstown and Teamsters Local 377 for the period January 29, 2010 through January 29, 2013, correct? A. Yes. Q. You would agree with me that the terms of this contract would govern	
25	"It is agreed that each seniority	25	your employment with ABC from those	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22	employee of the company who has completed his probationary period in addition to the four most senior merchandisers, regardless of number of working hours, shall be given an opportunity to enroll in the company's Flex Plan in existence on January 1st, 1999." Did I read that correctly? A. Word for word. Q. Let's flip to the next page, ABC 73, Section 4, health benefits, merchandisers, do you see where I am? A. Yes. Q. It's about the middle of that paragraph, the sentence begins, "the company will allow," do you see that? A. Yes. Q. "The company will allow merchandisers who achieve 2,000 work hours to enroll in the Flex Plan then in place, up to a maximum up of six	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22	Page 153 dates, January 29, 2010 through January 29, 2013, correct? A. Correct. Q. And without reading this into the record I'd like you to I'm going to identify certain sections and I want you to read them and let me know if you perceive a difference between the 2010 through 2013 contract verbiage versus the 2006-2010 verbiage, okay? That will save a little time. A. Yes, that supersedes, yes. Q. Let's look at ABC 285. Article 3, management, section 1. A. Yes. Q. As you read Section 1 do you perceive a difference between this version of Section 1 and what we just read in the prior contract? A. I'll stipulate it would be the same. Q. How about 291, ABC 291,	



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1	verbiage in the 2010 to 2013 contract	1	this in one shot? Section 7 and
2	versus the 2006 to 2010 contract?	2	Section 10, if you could take a look at
3	A. I guess I better look at it.	3	Section 7 D and please compare that, if
4	What page is the other one on?	4	you'd like, to Section 9 D of the prior
5	Q. Sure. The other one is on	5	contract?
6	ABC 67.	6	A. What Bates number, please?
7	A. What are we looking at?	7	Q. Sure. 70.
8	Q. In ABC 291 it's Section 4.	8	
9	A. Okay. What am I looking at	9	A. Compare it to what?
10	on the other one?	10	Q. Compare it to Section 9 D,
111			as in David.
	Q. Section 8 on 67.	11	A. On 7 there's no D.
12	A. It looks different. Yeah,	12	Q. I'm sorry?
13	it's different.	13	_ A. On your Exhibit 16 I don't
14	Q. And the difference is that	14	see D on page
15	the last section or the last sentence,	15	Q. It's on the next page, that
16	rather, of the section is different. In	16	section starts on that page.
17	the 2010-2013 contract it states, "In	17	 A. Oh, you said Bates number
18	the event of a transfer or reassignment	18	70.
19	by the employer the employees will not	19	Q. Correct. That's where the
20	be paid less than their current rate	20	section starts.
21	unless stipulated by another section of	21	A. Okay. Section D? Yeah,
22	the agreement," correct?	22	they're different, they run together
23	A. Correct. Your previous	23	right off the bat, C and D.
24	question I didn't look at the I	24	Q. But the substance of D and
25	didn't defer to it. You want me to	25	the substance of 7 D?
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1	look at the other one?	1	A. Yeah, they're different,
2	Q. You can if you want. I'll	2	language is different.
3	represent to you it is the same but you	3	Q. And what language is
4	can certainly feel free to take a look	4	different? It says, the prior contract
5	if you'd like.	5	
6	A. I trust you.	6	says, such notice shall be made by
7	Q. Let's look at 293 of the	7	registered letter or telegram, whereas
8	2010-2013 contract. I'm specifically	8	
9		9	A. Yeah.
10	looking, it's Section 1 of the seniority Article 14 section, the portion that	_	Q the subsequent says just
11		10	by registered letter, that's the
12	begins, "in case of a dispute," do you see where I am?	11	difference, correct?
13		12	A. Yeah, I see that, it's
	A. Yes.	13	different, yeah.
14	Q. Why don't you read that	14	Q. That's the difference you're
15	through seniority shall prevail and	15	referring to?
16	to yourself, and let me know if you see	16	A. Yes.
17	any difference between that language and	17	Q. And then Section 10 of the
18	the language from the prior contract.	18	new contract and Section 13 of the old
19	A. Where is it at on the prior	19	contract, new contract is 294, old
20	contract, please?	20	contract is 71.
21	Q. Sure. It is page 69.	21	A. Okay. Section 10 and
22	A. Okay. Jumping back and	22	section what?
23	forth it appears to be the same.	23	Q. 13 of the old.
24	Q. Let's turn the page to ABC	24	A. Okay. Got it.
25	294, Section 7, and why don't we do	25	Q. Those are the same, correct?



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1	A. Correct.	1	take a look and let me know if I have
2	 Q. Now, we talked kind of 	2	that correct.
3	generally about your employment with	3	A. Appears to be.
4	ABC, I'd like to go into a little more	4	 Q. Looking at the first page of
5	detail.	5	Deposition Exhibit 25.
6	A. Sure, go ahead.	6	A. Say again, please.
7	Q. You were hired July of 07 as	7	Q. Sure. Looking at the first
8	a warehouse loader, correct?	8	page of Deposition Exhibit 25, your
9	A. Correct.	9	resume?
10	Q. I think we talked about	10	A. Yes.
11	this, you worked, we're calling it the	11	 Q. Is there anything not
12	second shift, you said ABC really didn't	12	accurate in your resume?
13	have a name for it but you didn't start	13	 A. It appears to be in order.
14	until approximately 4:00 p.m., correct?	14	MR. ROSSI: Did you hear his
15	A. True.	15	answer?
16	 Q. Your duties as a warehouse 	16	MS. MCARDLE: I did, thank you.
17	loader included reviewing electronic	17	MR. ROSSI: Okay.
18	orders assigned to truck routes, pulling	18	Q. Turning to the application
19	product to filling those orders and	19	portion of Deposition Exhibit 25, same
20	placing product on trucks for shipment,	20	question, please take the time you need
21	is that right?	21	to review the application, but is there
22	 A. What do you mean by 	22	anything contained in that application
23	electronic orders?	23	that is not accurate?
24	Q. You received orders that came	24	A. It appears to be in order.
25	into the warehouse or you reviewed	25	Q. I notice on I'll use the
	Page 159		Page 161
1	orders that came into the warehouse,	1	Bates number for those because I think
2	we'll say in any form, you pulled	2	it's easier, ABC 137.
3	product to fill those orders and then	3	A. Okay.
4	you placed product on trucks for	4	Q. Under references you've
5	shipment?	5	listed Michael D. Rossi, and I think
6	 A. We had paper documents, load, 	6	that says CPA, is that right?
7	unload, yeah, yeah.	7	A. No, it says LPA.
8	 Q. And generally would you agree 	8	Q. Oh, LPA. What does LPA
9	that Thursday was the warehouse's	9	stand for?
10	busiest day because of Friday shipments	10	A. Licensed practicing attorney.
11	for the weekend?	11	Q. I've never seen that acronym
12	A. Yeah, kind of doubled up.	12	before.
13	Up.	13	A. Really?
14		14	Q. Really.
15	(Thereupon, Deposition	15	A. Okay.
16	Exhibit-25 was marked for	16	Q. I didn't realize that was
17	purposes of identification.)	17	funny.
18	O 05-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	18	A. I didn't either.
19	Q. Showing you what's been	19	Q. So you've listed your
20	marked Deposition Exhibit 25, my	20	attorney Mr. Rossi, who's sitting here
21	understanding is this is a copy of the	21	presently next to you in your
22	resume you submitted to the company and	22	deposition, as a reference for
23	the employment applications that you	23	employment purposes at Dr. Pepper
24	filled out around the same time for	24	Snapple Group, correct?
25	employment with the company, but please	25	A. Well, they wanted references



that if hired," do you see where I at A. No okay, yeah, y	d leans priod
book or whatever. Must none book, I didn't remember mber. bking down at the bottom page, is that your A. No okay, yeah, y	d leans priod
mber. pking down at the bottom page, is that your that it is not guaranteed for any performed for any performed form. G. "I understand that if hired my employment is 'at will' which my employment at that it is not guaranteed for any performed formed f	eans riod
poking down at the bottom page, is that your 5 my employment is 'at will' which me that it is not guaranteed for any per 7 of time and that my employment are compensation may be terminated l	eans riod
page, is that your that it is not guaranteed for any per that it is not guaranteed for any per	riod
8 compensation may be terminated I	
u signed this on or about 9 corporation or myself for any reason 207? 10 any time with or without advance	on at
2007? any time with or without advance notice." Did I read that correctly?	
u signed this on or about 12 A. Wow, I never recall that,	
2007, is that right? 13 yeah. At will employment, yes.	
th, I can't tell, 25th, 14 Q. Well, you have a practice	e of
Bth. 15 reading documents before you sign	
ay. Sometime in late June 16 sir, right?	
ned this employment 17 A. Yeah, okay. I thought it	
18 was a union company. I didn't kno	w it
e. 19 was at will, okay. der applicant certification 20 MR. ROSSI: Wait for a ques	ction
typed after the all caps 21	SUOTI.
ich actually says, "Please 22 Q. Turning to ABC off the	
wing statements carefully, 23 record.	
e the conditions under 24 (Discussion off the record.)	
ght be employed with the 25 Q. Turning to ABC 143.	
Page 163	Page 165
1 A 140 what?	
	ee
act in this application 6 Q I couldn't quite read it co.	
	that
rithdrawal of an offer or 9 you attended?	
	ere
	eserve
	, 1
s contained in your 17 school did you obtain your high sch	
ere true and correct to the 18 diploma?	
	3 (
! IZS A I ΣΠΩΠΛ SII INYAA	
e. 23 A. I attend all three. pping the paragraph to the 24 Q. I'm assuming not	- 1
the conditions under ght be employed with the Page 163 Page 163 A. 140 what? Q. 143. There's a section entitled educational data, do you set that? I wanted you to please identify, are these three separate high schools withdrawal of an offer or ction including 1 am hired." Did I read precity? do for word. You understood at the signed this application iffying to this fact that so contained in your at you could be terminated or esentations contained in on, correct? Q. 143. There's a section entitled educational data, do you set that? A. Yes. Q. I couldn't quite read it so I wanted you to please identify, are these three separate high schools with these three separate high schools with these? A. Howland High School, With these high school did you obtain your high school did you obtain your high school or you attend them for a period of time.	ee that ere arrer eser nool



	——————————————————————————————————————		
	Page 166		Page 168
1	separate periods of time?	1	acknowledgment states, "Also, the
2	A. Say that again, please.	2	company cannot guarantee you a job. All
3	Q. I'm assuming not	3	employment with the company is
4	simultaneously, you attended them for	4	terminable at will, which means you may
5	separate periods of time?	5	resign your employment at any time for
6	A. A couple of them.	6	any reason. No one other than the
7	Q. So, I'm sorry, that was	7	president of the company has any
8	simultaneously you're saying?	8	authority to change the at will nature
9	A. Couple of them, yes.	9	of your employment. No statements by
10	Q. For what purpose were you	10	any person shall bind the company to
11	simultaneously attending schools?	11	continue your employment unless they are
12	A. Education.	12	in writing and signed by the president."
13	Q. So you were taking selected	13	Did I read that correctly?
14	classes at Warren G. Harding and Warren	14	A. Word for word.
15	Western Reserve?	15	Q. So, again, in signing this
16	A. Yes, you got it.	16	document above your signature which
17	Q. Of these schools, which are	17	reads, "I have read and understood these
18	public schools?	18	above statements," you were certifying
19	A. All of them.	19	to the company that you had read and
20	Q. At the bottom of the same	20	understood the statements set forth in
21	page it states, "Have you ever been	21	the acknowledgements on this page,
22	convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor	22	correct?
23	other than traffic violations," and you	23	A. Yes.
24	checked the no box, is that right?	24	Q. Now, we mentioned John Taraba
25	A. Yeah.	25	earlier in the deposition and I think
	Page 167		Page 169
	_		- I
1 2	Q. So at that point you were	1	you even pulled out his business card
3	certifying to ABC that you had never been convicted of a felony or	2	and read off his job title. My
4	misdemeanor other than a traffic	3	question very basically is, as a
5	violation?		warehouse loader you reported to John,
6	A. Yeah.	5 6	is that right?
7	A. Teall.	7	A. No, Ryan Cozart.
8	(Thereupon, Deposition		Q. So you had no reporting
9	Exhibit-26 was marked for	8	relationship to Mr. Taraba?
10	purposes of identification.)	10	A. In my first day hired John
11	purposes of identification.)	11	advised me, instructed me to report to Ryan Cozart.
12	Q. Around the same time that	12	,
13	you completed your employment	13	Q. So, again, you had no reporting relationship to Mr. Taraba, is
14	application you completed the document	14	that your testimony?
15	or it appears you completed the document	15	A. Well, he's the manager but,
16	that I'm handing you that has now been	16	no, Ryan pretty much is the supervisor.
17	marked as Deposition Exhibit 26.	17	whatever, foreman.
18	A. Okay.	18	Q. So you didn't consider Mr.
19	Q. Is that your signature at	19	Taraba your supervisor then?
20	the bottom of Deposition Exhibit 26?	20	A. He was the manager, yes.
21	A. It appears to be.	21	Q. So then again I'm confused
22	Q. And that looks like June 29,	22	on your answer. You're saying he was
23	2007, is that right, that you signed it?	23	your supervisor but you didn't report to
24	A. Correct.	24	him?
25	Q. Last paragraph of the	25	A. I didn't report to him, i



	DEL COMON CONTROLLEM A. P. O. T. C.		
	Page 170		Page 172
1	reported to Ryan Cozart when I got	1	sure.
2	hired, first day he told me report to	2	Q. Do you know who made the
3	Ryan Cozart.	3	decision to retain you upon completion
4	Q. So from your first day of	4	of your probationary period?
5	employment you understood that you	5	A. You'd have to ask some
6	reported to Mr. Cozart?	6	representative.
7	 A. Yeah, everybody did. 	7	Q. So you don't know?
8	Q. Everybody means	8	A. I don't know.
9	A. In the warehouse.	9	Q. Do you know who was involved
10	Q. In the entire warehouse?	10	in the decision to retain you after you
11	A. At nights.	11	completed your probationary period?
12	Q. Even on first shift?	12	A. You'd have to contact your
13	A. No, Ryan is not on first	13	client and see, I don't know.
14 15	shift.	14	Q. Do you know what facts were
16	Q. So your statement refers to employee on the second shift or what	15	taken into consideration in deciding to
17	we've been calling the second shift?	16 17	retain you after you completed your
18	A. Nights.	18	probationary period? A. I don't have that privileged
19	Q. Do you have any idea whether	19	information.
20	at the time ABC hired you ABC considered	20	Q. When you say privileged are
21	you a seasonal employee?	21	you trying to assert that an attorney
22	A. No.	22	was involved in that decision?
23	Q. You did have an understanding	23	A. I'm not.
24	though that you had probationary status	24	Q. And after you completed your
25	for the first 90 days of your	25	probationary period you then became
	Page 171		Page 173
1	employment?	1	eligible for certain ABC benefits, is
2	A. Probationary, yes. The	2	that right?
3	grievance is 8291 regarding wages with	3	A. Meaning?
4	probation and that should satisfy that.	4	Q. Different employment
5	Q. Well	5	benefits, insurance, other things that
6	A. January 3rd, I believe, 2008.	6	you became eligible for upon completion
7	 Q. Sitting here today are you 	7	of your probationary period, correct?
8	claiming that you didn't receive wages	8	 A. Insurance, union benefits,
9	that you were entitled to for your	9	wages, yes.
10	probationary period?	10	Q. At the time that you started
11	A. Say that again, please.	11	your employment with ABC in 2007 you
12	Q. Sitting here today are you	12	were aware that at least strike the
13 14	trying to claim that you did not receive	13	question, please. At the time you
15	wages to which you were entitled to during your probationary period?	14 15	started your employment in 2007 were you
16	A. I'm not.	16	aware that at least one employee on the day shift was splitting jobs between
17	Q. You completed your	17	warehouse and vending?
18	probationary period sometime in	18	A. Say that again, please.
19	September of 07, is that right?	19	Q. At the time that you were
20	A. I can't recall.	20	hired in 2007 at ABC were you aware
21	Q. You were hired in July of 07	21	that at least one employee on the day
22	and you had a 90 day probationary	22	shift was splitting jobs between
23	period, I guess that would put you,	23	warehouse and vending?
24	what, in October of 07?	24	A. When I was hired I didn't
25			



			ERI A. PUTIS
	Page 174		Page 176
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. After you started did you become aware that an employee was splitting time between warehouse and vending on the day shift? A. I believe there was several people splitting stuff. I can't recal!. I believe so. Q. Doug Haus, do you know him? A. Yeah, yeah, I remember him, big guy. Q. And Doug was H A U S. And Doug was specifically splitting time between vending delivery and warehouse work, correct?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	may concern and indicates that you'll be on temporary layoff effective January 14th, 2008, this will continue for an undetermined length of time, correct? A. Indicating temporary layoff, yes. Q. And it also indicates this will continue for an undetermined length of time, correct? A. Separate sentence, yes. Q. Yes, that is a separate sentence and you understood this was referring to your layoff, correct? A. Sure, it's not a fragment,
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A. I don't know what their arrangements really are. I just know he would make an appearance. Q. And that went back to the beginning of your employment, you recall Mr. Haus making an appearance in the warehouse, correct? A. Yeah, different people make appearance on Thursdays, the heavy day. Q. So you started your employment sometime in July of 07 and	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	it's two sentences, correct. Q. Do you have personal knowledge of why you were laid off at that time? A. Personal knowledge? Q. Uh-hum. A. No. Q. Did you ask anyone why you were laid off at that time? A. I can assume. Q. Did you ask anyone why you
	Page 175		Page 177
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	then in January of 08 were laid off, correct? A. Correct. Right after my grievance settled. Q. Which grievance are you referring to? A. Let's say it was 82 something, 8290. Q. Oh, this is the wage issue	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	were laid off in January of 08? A. No. Q. Do you know who made the decision to lay you off at that time? A. No. Q. Do you who was involved in the decision to lay you off at that time? A. Agents of the company.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	that you were referring to about payment as a probationary employee, is that right? A. Sounds right. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-27 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 27, you've seen this document before, correct? A. Yeah, I'm familiar with it. Q. And this document is a	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. Do you know any individual who was involved in the decision to lay you off at that time? A. At that time I'm not sure. Q. Do you know what facts were taken into consideration when you were laid off or the decision was made to lay you off in January of 08? A. Say that again, please. Q. Do you know what facts were taken into consideration when the decision was made to lay you off in January of 2008? A. What do you mean facts?
24 25	letter dated January 11, 2008 that you produced and it is addressed to whom it	24 25	Q. Do you know what the company considered when it made the decision to



	DEFORM OF ROBERT AT OTTO			
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1	lay you off in January of 08?	1	with Mr. Hoffa, yes, yes.	
2	A. You have to ask them, I	2	Q. When you were recalled in	
3	don't know.	3	March of 2008 you were recalled to your	
4	Q. And you were recalled	4	warehouse position, correct?	
5	sometime in March of 08, is that right?	5	A. Yes, that's my position,	
6	A. I don't have the papers in	6	warehouse, yes.	
7	front of me.	7	Q. Do you recall that at the	
8		8	time you were brought back in March of	
9	(Thereupon, Deposition	9	08 several employees were on vacation or	
10	Exhibit-28 was marked for	10	leaving for vacation shortly after that?	
11	purposes of identification.)	11	A. I don't recall right now.	
12		12	Q. It's possible, you just don't	
13	Q. Showing you what's been	13	recall?	
14	marked Deposition Exhibit 28, this is a	14	A. I don't know. If you say	
15	letter that you produced written by you	15	someone is on vacation, so be it, it's	
16	on March 31st, 2008 to Teamsters Local	16	okay.	
17	377.	17	Q. And you maintained your	
18	A. Oh, the trustee Charlie	18	health benefits during your recall	
19	Byrnes, okay.	19	or, excuse me, your layoff period, is	
20	Q. Looking at the last let	20	that right?	
21	me ask this: You wrote this letter,	21	 They had me on a personal or 	
22	correct?	22	a leave of absence, yeah, I don't know	
23	A. Yeah, I drafted it.	23	why they did that, but yeah.	
24	Q. The information certainly you	24	Q. You came back in March of 08	
25	wanted to set forth in the document was	25	and then you were subsequently laid off	
	Page 179		Page 181	
1	true since you were writing to Teamsters	1	in January of 09 again, correct?	
2	Local 377, right?	2	A. It sounds about right.	
3	A. Sure. My signature isn't	3		
4	subscribed upon this, but yeah.	4	(Thereupon, Deposition	
5	Q. In the last paragraph of	5	Exhibit-29 was marked for	
6	this letter you state, "As such,	6	purposes of identification.)	
7	regarding said layoff or discharge, it's	7		
8	been one working day since being called	8	Q. Showing you what's been	
9	back to work on March 31st, 2008." Did	9	marked Deposition Exhibit 29, another	
10	I read that correctly?	10	letter that you produced, this one is	
11	A. Word for word.	11	dated January 9th, 2009 addressed to	
12	Q. Does that refresh your	12	whom it may concern, refers to you, it	
13	recollection that you were recalled to	13	says you'll be on temporary layoff	
14	work in March of 2008?	14	effective January 12, 2009. Perhaps	
15	A. Sure.	15	there's a period missing, I don't know.	
16	Q. Flipping, I think there's a	16	Then it says, "This will continue for an	
17	second page to that exhibit, is there?	17	undetermined length of time." Did I	
18 19	A. Yeah.	18	read that correctly?	
20	Q. That appears to be a letter	19	A. Yeah, the grammar is	
21	from Charlie Byrnes to yourself dated April 1st, 2008. Is it your	20 21	fragle(sic) in it, you're right, yeah,	
22	understanding this is a response from	22	yeah, word for word. Q. So you understood in the	
23	Mr. Byrnes, B Y R N E S, to you to your	23	sentence, "This will continue for an	
24	March 31st, 2008 letter?	24	undetermined length of time," referred	
25	A. Yeah, because of my contact	25	to your layoff, correct?	



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	Page 182		Page 184
1 1	A. Say that again, please.	1	on layoff?
2	Q. You understood in the	2	A. Say that again, please.
3	sentence, "This will continue for an	3	Q. Once again you stayed on
4	undetermined length of time," that the	4	company health benefits while you were
5	word this referred to your layoff,	5	on layoff, correct?
6	correct?	6	A. They had me on a leave of
7	A. Defining temporary layoff	7	absence, yes. I don't know why they
8	undetermined, yes.	8	did that. Yes.
9	Q. My question is just simply	9	Q. Do you recall that sometime
10	from reading the sentence, "This will	10	in April of 09 you had a conversation
111	continue for an undetermined length of	111	
12	time," you understood "this" referred to	12	with Mr. Taraba about when you would be
13	your layoff, correct?	13	recalled and his response was not until June of 09 because that coincided with
14	A. Sure, the temporary layoff,	14	
15		15	vacations?
16	yes. Q. Do you have personal	16	A. I don't recall.
17		17	Q. You don't recall one way or
18	knowledge of why you were laid off in January of 09?	18	the other, correct?
19	A. I don't know. You have to	_	A. When was it?
20		19	Q. April of 09.
21	ask the company.	20	A. I'm not familiar. If you
	Q. Did you ever ask the company	21	say, so be it.
22	why you were laid off in January of 09?	22	Q. You were, in fact, recalled
23	A. No.	23	in June of 09, is that right?
24 25	Q. Do you who made the decision	24 25	A. I don't have the paperwork
20	to lay you off in January of 09?	25	in front of me. If you say so, so be
			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	Page 183		Page 185
1	_	1	
1 2	Page 183 A. You have to ask the company, the company agent.	1 2	Page 185
	A. You have to ask the company,		Page 185 it.
2	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved	2	it. (Thereupon, Deposition
2	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent.	2	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for
2 3 4	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09?	2 3 4	it. (Thereupon, Deposition
2 3 4 5	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here,	2 3 4 5	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.)
2 3 4 5 6	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the	2 3 4 5 6	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377.	2 3 4 5 6 7	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.)
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct? A. True.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection that you returned to work June 8th of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct? A. True. Q. And my question is, do you have any personal knowledge of who was	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection that you returned to work June 8th of 2009? A. It's not my signature
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct? A. True. Q. And my question is, do you	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection that you returned to work June 8th of 2009? A. It's not my signature isn't subscribed but it appears to be.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct? A. True. Q. And my question is, do you have any personal knowledge of who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. No.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection that you returned to work June 8th of 2009? A. It's not my signature isn't subscribed but it appears to be. Q. We haven't really seen any
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct? A. True. Q. And my question is, do you have any personal knowledge of who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. No. Q. So similarly you don't know what facts were considered by those	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection that you returned to work June 8th of 2009? A. It's not my signature isn't subscribed but it appears to be. Q. We haven't really seen any typed documents that you submitted where your signature was subscribed, correct? A. Yeah, I don't know why, but yes.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. You have to ask the company, the company agent. Q. Do you know who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. You got signatures here, these company guys right there, the company, what's it say, Stimmel, Fisher, Bobal and 377. Q. Well, certainly Local 377 is not part of the company, correct? A. True. Q. And my question is, do you have any personal knowledge of who was involved in the decision to lay you off in January of 09? A. No. Q. So similarly you don't know what facts were considered by those individuals when they made the decision to lay you off in 09, correct? A. You have to ask them, I	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-30 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 30, a document that appears to be from you dated June 3rd of 09 written to John Taraba. Does this document refresh your recollection that you returned to work June 8th of 2009? A. It's not my signature isn't subscribed but it appears to be. Q. We haven't really seen any typed documents that you submitted where your signature was subscribed, correct? A. Yeah, I don't know why, but yes. Q. So this does refresh your recollection you were recalled June of



Page 186 just trying to be a good faith, good 1 lay you off in September of 2009	Dana 100
just trying to be a good faith, good	Page 188
just trying to be a good faith, good I 1 lav you off in September of 2009	}?
person, yes, courtesy. 2 A. Repeat the question.	
Q. And you were again recalled 3 Q. I'm sorry?	
to your warehouse position, is that 4 A. Repeat the question.	
right? 5 Q. Do you know what was	staken
A. Excuse me. Yes, that's 6 into account when making the de	ecision
correct. 7 lay you off in September of 09?	30101011
Q. Coming back in June of 09 8 A. What do you mean acc	count?
you were then subsequently laid off 9 Q. What facts were consi	
September 21st of 09, correct? 10 when whoever made the decision	
A. Yeah, that sounds right. 11 you off in September of 09 made	
12 decision?	, triat
(Thereupon, Deposition 13 A. No.	
Exhibit-31 was marked for 14 Q. You stayed on compar	w hoalth
purposes of identification.) 15 benefits during this layoff as well	ıy neallii İ
16 correct?	19
Q. Handing you what's been 17 A. Say that again, please.	
marked Deposition Exhibit 31, it's a 18 Q. You stayed on compar	
document produced by you that contains 19 benefits during this layoff as well	
sorry, Mike the highlighted 20 correct?	9
	laava
	ıg.
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sentence, "This layoff will continue for 1 Q. After receiving a copy of	of
an undetermined length of time." Did 2 Deposition Exhibit 31 did you cor	itact
that I read that correctly? 3 Mr. Taraba to discuss your layoff	?
A. Word for word. 4 A. No.	
Q. Do you have personal5Q. Did you contact Mr. Stir	nmel
knowledge of why you were laid off in 6 to discuss your layoff?	
September of 09? 7 A. No.	
A. No. 8 Q. When you received a c	opy of
Q. Did you ask? 9 Deposition Exhibit 31 on or about	
A. No. 10 September 18, 2009 did you cont	act the
Q. Who made the decision or 11 union to discuss your layoff?	
strike the question, please. Do you 12 A. Every month.	1
know who made the decision to lay you 13 Q. I'm sorry?	
off in September of 09? 14 A. Every month, yes.	
A. A company agent. 15 Q. You contacted them ev	ery
Q. Do you know what individual 16 month beginning September 18th	
made the decision to lay you off? 17 discuss your layoff?	
A. I don't know, you have to 18 A. Yes, I had pay my dues	every
ask them. 19 month.	<i>-</i> 1
Q. Do you know who was involved 20 Q. Okay. So, I'm sorry, the	e
in the decision to lay you off in 21 contact you're referring to was to	
September of 09? 22 your dues?	
A. You have to ask the company. 23 A. Yeah, and small talk, ba	ınter.
Q. Do you know what was taken 24 shop talk, et cetera, et cetera.	,
into account when making the decision to 25 Q. Did you also ask when	_{vou}



		_	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	were going to be recalled when you contacted the union? A. During the trusteeship I was worried and understand a gray area because they removed two officials, Colello and DePasquale or whatever his name is, for wrongdoing, quote, unquote. So the union was kind of in chaos, infighting, disorganized, disruption, so I kind of kept going down there at the hall in Youngstown. Q. I'm sorry, you were concerned about your recall status because there was chaos going on at the union and you didn't want you to get lost in the shuffle of that chaos? A. I didn't want to make them pissed but I did know and felt that I have to keep paying my dues, especially in this time. Plus the contract negotiations was ongoing, there was no	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	layoff? A. No. Q. Same question with regards to Cindi Fisher, FISHER? A. Say it again, please. Q. Same question with regards to Miss Fisher, did you contact Miss Fisher on or about September 18th, 2009 to discuss your layoff? A. Nothing in payroll, no. Q. And you say nothing in payroll because you understand Miss Fisher is in the company's payroll department, correct? A. Yeah, just past experience with her in 2007, payroll, December 31st, December whatever it was, yeah. Q. So other than the union conversations you just mentioned did you contact anyone about being recalled to work after receiving the September 18,
23	contract, they got to ratify the contract. They didn't ratify it until	22 23	2009 correspondence? A. Just union people.
24	March of 2000, what is it, 11, 2011	24	Q. So it's your position that
25	or 2010, I'm sorry, I misspoke. So I	25	when you received the September 18th,
	Page 191		Page 193
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	made an appearance but sometimes they got angry at me so I kind of shied off a little bit, just try to keep in good contact with them. Q. So once again you wanted to make sure that your status, your recall status, was not lost in the shuffle with everything that was going on that you just described with the union? A. Say that again, please. Q. Once again you wanted to insure that your recall status was not lost in the shuffle with everything that you just recounted was going on with the union? A. I was making sure my employment was okay. Q. Did the union give you any indication your employment was not okay	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	2009 correspondence that this was a permanent layoff? A. No. Q. You filed a grievance on August 30th A. Yes. Q 2011? A. That's the wage claim. Q. That was 11823, right? A. Yeah, it's 118, yeah, you're correct, 23. She has nothing to do about layoff, it's just a wage claim to get paid wages, union benefits. Nothing else. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-32 was marked for purposes of identification.)
20 21 22 23 24 25	in response to your inquiries? A. No. Q. Did you contact on or about September 18th, 2009 after receiving Deposition Exhibit 31 did you contact Mr. Bobal to discuss your	20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 32, it's a copy of the grievance we've been discussing, 11823? A. Yeah, I wrote it myself. Q. In the nature of report



	DEFOSITION OF HOBERT A. FOTTS			
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1	section you have a clause that states,	1	orders?	
2	"As the company has assigned others to	2	Q. The amount of orders they	
3	work," do you see that?	3	were receiving?	
4	A. Where, what are you looking	4	A. You mean volume?	
5	at?	5	Q. Yes.	
6	Q. The section entitled nature	6	A. I don't know. What date was	
7	of report, that's where you described	7	that to?	
8	your grievance?	8	Q. Summer of 09.	
9	A. Okay.	9	A. Busy season, you should have	
10	Q. There's a clause on the	10	a lot of orders.	
11	third line	11	Q. When you say busy season are	
12	A. Okay, I see it.	12	you saying that summer of 09 was busy	
13	Q that starts, "As the	13	or generally the summer is a busy	
14	company has assigned others to work," do	14	season?	
15	you see that?	15	A. I'm just politely saying the	
16	A. Yes.	16	summer is always busy. It's pop season,	
17	Q. To whom are you referring	17	quote, unquote.	
18	when you say others to work?	18	Q. But you don't have any	
19	A. Any worker.	19	personal knowledge of the orders the	
20	Q. Did you have personal	20	company was actually receiving, correct?	
21	knowledge that somebody had been	21	A. No.	
22	assigned to work your job?	22	Q. Now, we talked about this	
23	A. What do you mean personal	23	briefly, at least I think you mentioned	
24	knowledge?	24	it before, that you attended a meeting	
25	Q. Well, maybe I'm making an	25	on September 14th, 2010 at ABC about	
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	rage 195		Page 197	
1	assumption and you can correct me if I	1	your grievance, correct?	
2	have this wrong, but I thought we talked	2	 A. Yes, about this wage claim 	
3	about this earlier in the deposition	3	11823.	
4	that you filed this grievance because	4	MS. MCARDLE: Off the record.	
5	you believed that you were laid off and	5	(Discussion off record.)	
6	someone was performing your job?	6		
7	 A. Well, based on a discussion 	7	(Thereupon, Deposition	
8	with Joe Warner from OSHA on the 26th	8	Exhibit-33 was marked for	
9	of August, you know, 2010, I'm assuming	9	purposes of identification.)	
10	I had to be replaced and I'm assuming	10		
11	that other workers are covering me if	11	Q. Showing you what's been	
12	they didn't hire anybody and if they	12	marked Deposition Exhibit 33, this is a	
13	did, I mean, they had a lot of work so	13	document that you produced to us in	
14	I figured they got to bring somebody in.	14	discovery with the highlighted portions	
15	So it's a good educated guess.	15	on there, appears to be a letter to	
16	Q. Did you know or have	16	you, a copy to the Teamsters Local 377,	
17	personal knowledge of the level of	17	Bill Stimmel, John Taraba, and the	
18	orders that the company was receiving in	18	document is from Mike Bobal. It's dated	
19	the summer of 09?	19	9-30-2010 and, as you said, it related	
20	A. Say that	20	to grievance 11823?	
21	Q. Did you have any personal	21	A. Yes.	
22	knowledge of the level of orders for	22	Q. You received a copy of this	
23	product the company was receiving in the	23	document as you put highlighted marks on	
24	summer of 09?	24	it, correct?	
25	A. What do you mean level of	25	A. Certified mail, I signed for	



	DEPOSITION OF ROBERT A. POTTS			
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1	it.	1	really resolved at that point.	
2	Q. So we talked a little bit	2	Q. So you're saying	
3	about the meeting on September 14th	3	 A. Union reps were pretty much 	
4	earlier but I have a few more specific	4	backing my side and certified everything	
5	questions about that meeting.	5	I'd said and says I'm going to get paid	
6	A. Sure.	6	my wages and	
7	Q. What else to the best of	7	Q. So you're saying Mr. Bobal's	
8	your recollection, how long was that	8	demeanor changed from the start of the	
9	meeting on September 14, 2010?	9	meeting to the point when the company	
10	 A. I can't recall, you have to 	10	people left?	
11	ask the company. I'm sure they timed	11	A. Yeah, you could confer with	
12	it because I'm sure they got paid for	12	your client, it was pretty drastic in	
13	it.	13	change.	
14	Q. What subjects were discussed	14	Q. Mr. Potts, we're here to	
15	at the September 14, 2010 meeting?	15	take your deposition	
16	A. Collecting bargaining	16	A. Absolutely.	
17	subjects.	17	Q so I can get the facts	
18	Q. What specific subjects as	18	from you. I certainly can confer with my	
19	they related to your employment with ABC	19	client but you filed the lawsuit against	
20 21	were discussed at the September 14, 2010	20	ABC so I'm entitled to some answers,	
22	meeting? A. This is the wage claim issue	21 22	okay?	
23	regarding wages, getting paid, with	23	A. That's why I'm here.	
24	other workers working.	24	Q. Great. Thank you.MR. ROSSI: Don't argue with her.	
25	Q. And what other subjects other	25	THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry,	
	Page 199		Page 201	
			_	
1 2	than other workers working were discussed during the September 14, 2010	1	that's	
3	meeting?	2	MR. ROSSI: Just answer her	
4	A. I believe I brought up the	4	question if she asks one. A. I apologize.	
5	issue that they didn't call me for	5	Q. No, it's no offense.	
6	annual job bidding for the year, since	6	A. I don't mean to be out of	
7	the contract was ratified and looks like	7	line.	
8	I got left out somewhere, I think.	8	Q. So my question again is, are	
9	Q. Did the company respond?	9	you saying Mr. Bobal's demeanor changed	
10	 The result of that meeting, 	10	from the start of the meeting until the	
11	they basically walked out and left.	11	point in time when the company people	
12	Q. So you're saying the company	12	left?	
13	you made a statement about not being	13	A. Yeah. The other company	
14	called for annual job bidding and no one	14	reps was fine, demeanor is good, he was	
15	from the company responded to you?	15	the only one.	
16	A You know, there were so many	16	Q. And then you said there were	
17 18	subjects, I mean, I just have to just	17	so many subjects discussed and that's	
19	just jump into it and jump it was all over the place, so there was a lot	18 19	really what I'm trying to get a handle	
20	of different subjects. Because Mr.	20	on. A. Yeah.	
21	Bobal pretty much turned red in the face	21	Q. You said that there was the	
22	and his demeanor changed and his conduct	22	wage claim, that you were not called for	
23	changed and was upset and angry and they	23	annual job bidding and then what other	
24	decided to end the meeting, just walk	24	subjects were discussed?	



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	there. This is a wage claim, annual job bidding, workers from other departments working. We got I got the seniority list for the first time, it's dated 9-14-2010. That's when I seen that there are seven or eight people hired under me. That's when we seen that there's no utility classification on the seniority sheet. A lot of information. Seen that another guy was hired the same day I was laid off. All kind of stuff. Q. And I'm looking for the subjects that were discussed at that meeting. So I have wage claim, you were not called for annual job bidding, that other workers were assigned to your	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	meeting that the company had someone else working your position? A. Working my jobs, yes. Q. Who was that? A. Many people. Q. You said that someone replaced you so are you not saying that now, there's not somebody who took over your position in the warehouse? A. Let me clarify. I received the seniority list for the first time and take notice or took notice of new employees. Q. New warehouse employees? A. New warehouse, new merchandisers, new drivers, there's a lot of new employees on that sheet. I
18	work and you received a seniority list.	18	have taken notice and without question
19	What other subjects?	19	somebody is working in the warehouse.
20	A. The basis of that claim is a wage claim proving that they had other	20 21	(Thereupon, Deposition
22	workers in there and doing my job. And	22	Exhibit-34 was marked for
23	I thought I accomplished it and	23	purposes of identification.)
24 25	unfortunately the meeting ended, they run out, that was it. Then I get this	24 25	Q. Handing you what's been
	Page 203		Page 205
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	letter in the mail. Q. You thought you accomplished proving that the company had someone else in your position? A. I thought for my grievance with proving that all those things, that I thought I made a good face, you know, not good good faith argument in proving my points to prevail in the grievance on 11823 so I can get paid wages. Q. And, again, you're saying that you feel you proved that the company had someone else in your position? A. Well, I thought that Q. This is a yes or no question. A. Repeat the question.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	marked Deposition Exhibit 34, it's a document that you produced highlighting and red pen on the document with the time you produced it. A. Yes. Q. Looking, this appears to be a letter dated September 14, 2010? A. Yes. Q. To the local union? A. Same day pretyped, yes. Q. I'm sorry, you typed this prior to arriving at the meeting? A. Yeah. Q. Didn't you just testify that you received the seniority list for first time at that meeting? A. That's right. I didn't attach it to this. Q. Then I guess I'm unaware how
20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Are you saying that you proved the company had someone else working your position? A. Repeat that. Q. Are you saying that you feel you proved in that September 14, 2010	20 21 22 23 24 25	you knew that your name was not last in the plant-wide seniority list at that time? A. I typed this letter up and brought it that day, September 14, 2010. That was my argument at the time and



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	that was my position and my position was stating permanent layoff. Q. Why did you believe that the subject of permanent layoff was going to be discussed at the September 14, 2010 meeting? A. Because my seniority time is good for one year after date of involuntary layoff, which is 9-21st-2010. So cutting whatever manipulations and things that they're doing right to the point, laid off a long time, permanent layoff, that's what I jumped into at that time, is my understanding of the information I got. Q. So what you're saying is you were speaking of a permanent layoff because the one year period under the contract was about to expire on September 21st, 2010 and, to use your words earlier in the deposition, that you'd be done for all purposes at that point? A. My position was to show, to	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	think. That's my response, that's how I think and knowing that seven days of seniority remains, my seniority recall rights, everything else, seven days away to help them get to a decision real fast, pay me, discuss layoff issues and everything else, union contract, the trusteeship, the removal of the union people, new employees, other employees doing work out of classification, all that, because that's how I think. That's why I did that. I pretyped this letter ahead of time and came in and passed it out to every one of them at the table. That was my position statement. Q. So let's look at the seniority list that is attached to Deposition Exhibit 34 A. Yes. Q but you're saying that was not part of the September 14 letter that you represented? A. That's what we found out
25	prevail on that grievance, to show a	25	that day. I don't think they give me
	Page 207		Page 209
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	prevailing case and I thought I did for my grievance. Q. And my question is different. You referenced permanent layoff, I asked you why you even thought permanently layoff would a subject to be discussed at the September 14, 2010 meeting and you responded because your one year period was almost up and you made some characterizations about the company— A. Sure. Q. — and that's why you said you raised it. So I'm clarifying in saying, so you raised the subject of permanent layoff because you believed under the terms of the contract one year of layoff was about to expire and as of September 21st, 2010 you would be, using	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	the list until after, the union mailed it to me. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-35 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Let's do this then, please take the list off of Exhibit 34. A. Yeah. Q. And put Exhibit 35 at the bottom of the first page of the list and we'll introduce these separately. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 35, this is a copy of the layoff excuse me, the seniority list that you received at the September 14, 2010 meeting, correct?
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	your words, done for all purposes? A. Rephrase that. Q. I really can't. MS. MCARDLE: I really can't. Can you read that back, please? (Record read.) A. Okay. That's the way I	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A. Say that again. Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 35, this is a copy of the seniority list that you said you received on September 14, 2010, correct? A. They didn't give it to me.



	DEFOSITION OF ROBERT A: FOT 13			
	Page 210		Page 212	
1	I was able to look at it that day,	1	2010?	
2	correct.	2	A. Yeah, I looked right at it.	
3	Q. If you need to look at this	3	Q. And who has less seniority	
4	list to refresh your recollection,	4	who holds the position as warehouse	
5	please do so.	5	loader?	
6	A. Sure.	6	A. I always been number five	
7	Q. But please identify all the	7	and I count one, two, three, four, five.	
8	employees that you claim were performing	8	There's Tony Nicastro who has been	
9	your job.	9	utility, gets less pay than me, starts	
10 11	A. I can only assume, I wasn't	10	earlier than me and on this date,	
12	there.	11 12	9-14-2010, it's a warehouse, new	
13	Q. So you have no personal knowledge of anyone on this list who was	13	contract ratified in March 2010,	
14	performing your job while you were on	14	supposed to have seniority updates. just don't know why he's in the	
15	layoff, correct?	15	warehouse and no utility classification.	
16	A. It could be any one of them.	16	And if he did get in the warehouse his	
17	Q. Now, you referenced also	17	classification department seniority is	
18	earlier in your testimony that the	18	incorrect.	
19	company hired other warehouse	19	Q. On what basis do you believe	
20	individuals while you were on layoff.	20	his seniority is incorrect?	
21	Would you please turn to the second page	21	A. Well, when I was hired in	
22	of the exhibit, which is the seniority	22	July of 2007 he was utility.	
23	by department list, you are the least	23	Q. And my question is different.	
24	senior employee listed under warehouse,	24	You said if he was in the warehouse his	
25	correct?	25	seniority is incorrect. On what basis	
	Page 211		Page 213	
1	 A. After studying that yes, 	1	do you believe his seniority is	
2	correct. Interesting.	2	incorrect because he's in the warehouse?	
3	Q. And if you flip to the first	3	 A. Well, they would have to 	
4	page of Deposition Exhibit 35, this is	4	post a job for him to take a warehouse	
5	the plant-wide seniority list and	5	job. The company would have to post an	
6	numbers 21 through 30 are all identified	6	opening or if they what's the word	
7	as merchandisers, correct?	7	I'm looking for relieve a position or	
8	A. Yes.	8	get rid of a position they still have	
9	Q. And looking at the plant-wide	9	to post for other people. Even the	
10	seniority list you are the least senior	10	annual job bidding, everybody has to get	
11	warehouse person, number 19 on this	11	reassigned in seniority classifications.	
12	list, correct?	12	For example, you can look at the	
13 14	A. I would have to disagree.	13	department seniority under Kevin	
15	May I separate this so I can look at them side-by-side?	14 15	Sypherd, department seniority date	
16	Q. My question is really looking	16	6-21st-2010, date of hire 7-21st-2003. I mean, his status is incorrect.	
17	at the plant-wide seniority list, which	17	Q. Do you know why Mr.	
18	is the first page of Deposition Exhibit	18	Sypherd's status shows 6-21-210 for	
19	35, you are the least senior warehouse	19	department seniority?	
20	employee listed on this list, correct?	20	A. Looking at this, my educated	
21	A. On this document, yes.	21	guess is	
22	Q. Do you believe that there's	22	Q. ∣ don't want your guess, I	
23	something on the second page that would	23	want knowledge. Do you know why Mr.	
24	show that you were not the least senior	24	Sypherd's department seniority is listed	
25	warehouse employee as of September 14,	25	as 6-21-2010?	

		-	
	Page 214		Page 216
1	 A. What department, doesn't say 	1	simple.
2	what department he's in there.	2	A. Okay.
3	Q. My question again is, do you	3	Q. You testified that if there
4	know why Mr. Sypherd's department	4	was an open position the company would
5	seniority is listed as 6-21-2010?	5	have to post that position?
6	A. He got hired as a driver.	6	A. Yeah.
7	MS. MCARDLE: Mike?	7	Q. And I'm asking you where you
8	MR. ROSSI: Yes?	8	have come up with that information that
9	MS. MCARDLE: Would you please	9	the company is required to post a
10	have your witness answer the questions?	10	position that is open?
11	Q. My question is really, really	11	A. The CBA.
12	simple, Mr. Potts.	12	Q. So you would defer to the
13	A. Okay.	13	terms of collective bargaining agreement
14	Q. Do you know why Mr.	14	for whatever the company is or is not
15 16	Sypherd's department seniority is listed as 6-21-2010?	15	supposed to do with regards to posting
17	A. Do I know why it's listed?	16 17	an open position, correct?
18	Q. Yes, as that date, do you	18	A. Say that again, please. Q. You would defer to the terms
19	know why?	19	of the collective bargaining agreement
20	A. Because he's a driver,	20	as to what the company is or is not
21	obviously he's a driver.	21	supposed to do with regards to posting a
22	Q. Do you have personal	22	position, correct?
23	knowledge about why Mr. Sypherd's	23	A. You can say that. And
24	seniority date is listed as 6-21-2010?	24	annual job bidding.
25	A. Yeah.	25	Q. Looking at Deposition Exhibit
	Page 215		Page 217
1	Q. What's that knowledge?	1	-
2	A. I seen him.	2	33, you've highlighted a portion of the first page of the document, it's within
3	Q. You seen him what?	3	a paragraph that states I'm sorry, do
4	A. Out in public. I had a	4	you have the document in front of the
5	conversation with him, engaged him in	5	you?
6	dialogue.	6	A. I have it now, yes.
7	Q. And he told you why his	7	Q. It's in a paragraph that
8	seniority date is 6-21-2010?	8	states, "The company acknowledges that
9	 A. He told me he got hired as a 	9	with nearly a year now passing the
10	driver. I said congratulations. Same	10	situation may result in a loss of
11	at the gas station.	11	seniority. To avoid this possibility
12	G. Have you ever seen Mr.	12	(and in consideration of the fact it has
13	Sypherd's personnel file?	13	been over a year) the company is willing
14	A. No.	14	to now consider this a 'permanent
15	Q. And on what basis are you	15	layoff' effective October 15, 2010."
16	making your statements that the company	16	Did I read that correctly?
17 18	would post positions that became	17	A. Word for word.
19	available, is that because of something	18	Q. Did you ask ABC what it
20	in the collective bargaining agreement?	19	meant by that it is willing to now
21	A. Well, I don't see utility looking at this seniority.	20 21	consider this a permanent layoff
22	Q. That's not my question, Mr.	22	effective October 15, 2010?
23	Potts.	23	A. Say that again, please. Q. Did you ask the company,
24	A. I'm sorry.	24	after you received and read this letter,
25	Q. My question again is very	25	what it meant by the statement it is



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	DEFOSITION OF ROBERT A: FOTTS			
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	willing to now consider this a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010? A. I only sent a letter for seniority status and Mr. Bobal wouldn't respond to me, he said don't talk to him, so no. Q. He said go to your union, correct? A. That was it, yes. Q. So, again, you did not ask the company what it meant by the statement it is now willing to consider this a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010, correct? A. Say that again. Q. You did not ask the company what it meant by the statement it is now willing to consider this a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010? A. Yeah, the attempt was referred to the union. Q. You didn't ask the company, correct? A. In writing, yeah.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	already lost, I don't have any seniority rights. Q. Do you know whether I'm sorry. Go ahead. A. 9-21st-2010 I have no seniority rights. Q. Correct, as under the terms of the contract as of 9-21-2010 you were going to lose your seniority, correct? A. I already lost them because on this date, they determined on that date that the layoff was temporary. Q. Mr. Potts, I really would ask you, if you listen then we'll get through this a lot faster. A. I'm sorry. Q. I said as of September 21st, 2010 you were losing your seniority rights, correct? A. They're gone, correct. Q. Do you know whether ABC eliminated a warehouse position around that time? A. Had to be me.	
25	Q. You just told me you sent a	25	Q. Not my question. Do you	
	Page 219		Page 221	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. I didn't say that. I said I sent a letter to Mr. Bobal asking him what my seniority status was, what my rank is on the list. Q. And in that letter you asked him what did you mean by this statement the company is now willing to consider this a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010? A. That's my way of speaking and communicating, that's why I evenwith the grievance, I said permanent. That's the way I think. Q. So you didn't ask him that	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	know whether ABC eliminated a warehouse position, not an individual but a position at the company around that time? A. I don't know. Q. Do you know whether ABC eliminated a warehouse position at any time between September of 09 and September 2010? A. Say that again. Q. Do you know whether ABC eliminated a warehouse position at any time between September of 09 and September 2010? A. No, not aware, nothing	
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	question? A. I though I was. Q. Those words did not appear in your letter, correct? A. What words? Q. What does the company mean by the fact it's now willing to consider this a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010. A. No, because seniority is	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	posted. Q. So with this offer of converting your layoff to a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010, in essence this was reviving your seniority, correct? A. No. Q. Well, what did you understand the next sentence to mean which says, "This will allow the grievant the	



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	Page 222		Page 224
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	opportunity to exercise his contractual rights to bump by seniority and classifications until the least senior employee is displaced"? A. I don't have any contractual rights to bump on seniority and classifications. Q. So the company was actually extending you that right, correct? A. No. They were if you read, they're actually making me like a new employee, a new hire to make an application for a position in merchandising, in which at that meeting, 9-14-2010, Mr. Bobal himself says I'm not qualified. Q. So with the company stating in this correspondence this will allow the grievant the opportunity to exercise his contractual right to "bump by seniority and classifications until the least senior employee is displaced," you did not understand that to mean that you could bump a lesser senior employee?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. I sent him the letter to ask where my rank is in the Q. Did you ever ask Mr. Bobal how could I possibly bump a less senior employee if I have no seniority? A. I wish I got the opportunity, no. Q. Looking at Deposition Exhibit 35, first page, the individuals on the first page numbered 21 through 30, you would agree with me, have a hire date after your hire date, correct? A. Say that again. Q. The individuals on page 1 of Deposition Exhibit 35 are listed as 21 through 30, you would agree with me, have a hire date after your hire date, correct? A. Yeah, 20 through 30, yes. Q. Do you have a CDL driver's license? A. No. Q. You filed another grievance on September 21st, 2010, correct?
25	A. I can't.	25	A. Correct. 11824, grievance
	Page 223		Page 225
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 1	Q. I'm not asking what you could or couldn't do, I'm asking you what you understood the company was offering you? A. There is no offer. I don't obviously, there's a lot of confusion there. Q. There apparently is because you have testified as of September 21st, 2010 you had lost your seniority, correct? A. Yeah. Q. However, the company is willing to consider this a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010 to allow you to exercise contractual rights to bump by seniority? A. Yeah. Q. Did you ask Mike what are you talking about?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	number. Q. I'm sorry, returning to Deposition Exhibit 33 for a moment. A. Yes. Q. So as you sit here today it's your testimony that at no time did you understand that the company was making an offer to you to permit you to exercise seniority rights past September 21st, 2010? A. Correct. And that grievance was withdrawn October of 2010 as well. MR. ROSSI: Wait for a question. THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-36 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been
21 22 23 24 25	A. No, because it was withdrew, this agreement was withdrawn. Q. Did you ask Mike at any time how could I possibly bump a less senior employee if I don't have seniority?	21 22 23 24 25	marked as Deposition Exhibit 36, this is correspondence from you to Teamsters Local 377 dated October 2nd, 2010, and we have your signature A Yeah

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	Page 226		Page 228
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	 Q on this one? A subscribed upon it, yeah. Q. Did you write this correspondence? A. Yeah. Q. Is everything contained in this correspondence true and accurate? 	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	that, yeah, I agree with it, I just wish they would have had more. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-38 was marked for purposes of identification.)
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Yeah. First time I told them to withdraw it so we can go to the layoff issues in 11824, absolutely. Q. You then filed yet another grievance on October 13th, 2010, correct? A. The union filed it on my behalf, 49 something, 4982 or 4959. That's it. Q. And 4956? A. 4956, I was close.	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. Showing you what's been marked as Deposition Exhibit 38, it's a copy of correspondence that you sent to Mr. Mike Bobal on October 15th, 2010, subject line re: Permanent layoff, is that your signature? A. Yeah, yeah, subscribed myself. Q. You say, "Dear Michael, as you know, I have been provided with pertinent information regarding a notice
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. And you authorized the union to file the grievance on your behalf? A. Yeah, they made me sign it right there. Q. Well, did you protest signing the grievance, you didn't want to do it? A. They Justin drafted that.	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	of permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010," correct? A. Correct. Q. And the first time you're contacting Mr. Bobal and writing about the notice you received about permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010 is in
	Page 227		Page 229
1 2 3 4 5 6	Q. Did you protest signing the agreement? MR. ROSSI: Answer the question, Robert. A. No, no.	1 2 3 4 5	fact on October 15, 2010, correct? A. There you go, correct. Q. Then it goes on to say what you said earlier that you're asking about your status on the plant-wide seniority list, correct?
7 8 9 10 11 12	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-37 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. This is Deposition Exhibit 37, is this a copy of that grievance? A. Yes.	7 8 9 10 11	A. Absolutely. Q. You would agree with me also that in this October 15, 2010 correspondence to Mr. Bobal, Deposition Exhibit 38, you nowhere mention the merchandising position, correct?
13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Yes. Q. And that's your signature on the A. Yes. Q bottom left-hand corner? A. Absolutely. Q. Did you disagree with the	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Correct. Mr. Bobal himself said I wasn't qualified 9-14-2010. Q. When did Mr. Bobal strike the question, please. What did Mr. Bobal say in the 9-14-2010 meeting about your qualifications for the merchandising position?
20 21 22 23 24 25	contents of the grievance? A. It didn't raise the issue about annual bidding, I wish it would of because it was up and that meeting got cut short on 9-14-2010, but using workers out of classification and all	20 21 22 23 24 25	A. That was it, he said I wasn't qualified. Q. Did you ask him what he meant by that? A. No, the union guy was arguing, he told him make me a



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	DEFOSITION OF ROBERT A. POTTS			
	Page 230		Page 232	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	merchandiser and he yelled he's not qualified. Q. So you would agree with me that Deposition Exhibit 33 is dated September 30th, 2010 which is after September 14, 2010, correct? A. Say that again, please. Q. Deposition Exhibit 33, you would agree with me, is dated September 30th, 2010 which is after September 14, 2010? A. Yeah. Q. Did you ask Mr. Bobal, hey, you told me I wasn't qualified on September 14th but now you're telling me I can have a merchandising position in your 9-30 correspondence? A. I didn't ask because I withdrew the grievance, the wage claim was withdrawn and Q. I'm not talking about the grievance. A. Oh, okay. I'm sorry. Q. This is separate.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. That was my only watch at the time, looking for my seniority rights, until 9-21st-2010. I knew I didn't have to worry about anything inside seniority. Whatever they done, I know I got recourse, grievance procedure, company counsel in Texas, I got everything to address that inside that date. I have protection of the CBA. Outside of that, I don't have anything. Q. And in response to Deposition Exhibit 38 that you sent to Mr. Bobal he asked you to contact the union regarding that matter? A. Yes, he said don't call him, write him, et cetera, et cetera. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-39 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 39, it's a	
25	A. Sure.	25	copy of a letter to the union dated	
	Page 231		Page 233	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Did you ask Mr. Bobal, hey, on September 14th you said I wasn't qualified for a merchandiser position, why are you offering me one on 9-30? A. In Exhibit I can't read this. Q. 38? A. 38, that's my way of asking him. Q. But you didn't ask that question, correct, you're asking about your placement on the plant-wide seniority list? A. I need to know before I expand upon my inquiry. I can't inquire if I don't know. And on 9-30 nobody knew the layoff was temporary either until that date. Q. When is the first time you believed that strike the question, please. When you say no one knew it was temporary as of that date, you're referring back to your earlier testimony that because your one year period was about to expire on 9-21?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	October 18th, 2010 from you with your signature, correct? A. Yes. Q. You would agree with me that in this correspondence to the union, no mention of the merchandising position, correct? A. Correct. The grievance was already withdrawn. Q. I don't understand why you keep saying the grievance is already withdrawn when this is a separate matter. A. I'm sorry, I won't speak of it no more. I'm new to this. I appreciate your latitude. Thank you. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-40 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 40, correspondence from Mr. Bobal dated November 10th, 2010 to you at your	



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	Page 234		Page 236
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Jeanette Drive address. A. Okay. Q. Did you receive this correspondence? A. No. Q. That's because you didn't sign for the certified mailing, correct? A. I didn't receive it, I didn't sign for any mailing on this date. Q. Well, there were several attempts made to have you sign for this correspondence and you refused to sign for it, correct? A. No, I didn't know about it. I was more than happy to sign for it. Q. So you're testifying under oath today that this is the first time you've ever seen this document? A. In the lawyer's office he showed it to me. Q. Were you aware of a meeting that was scheduled for October 21st with	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. Yes. I'm looking at Deposition Exhibit 33. After the paragraph we've already read on page 1 about bumping by seniority it goes on to say, "Should the grievant wish to pursue this course of action he needs to contact the company in writing expressing the desire within the 15 working day period that this grievance answer is up for review." Do you see that? A. I see that. Q. And you did, in fact, contact the company on October 15, 2010 and you didn't make any mention of the merchandising position, correct? A. No, because I can't bump, I want to know where my plant rank is and I wanted to bring up annual job bidding. I never got an annual job bidding from the beginning of that year in the new contract, the CBA. Q. So despite the fact the
24	the company and the union and yourself?	24	company was extending you the
25	A. No.	25	opportunity to bump you continued to
	Page 235		Page 237
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. You were never aware of a meeting that was scheduled for October 21st? A. I wish I was. Q. So your union didn't let you know that? A. I don't believe so, otherwise I'd have been there. Q. According to this correspondence Mr. Bobal is indicating that the grievance answer on grievance 11823 sent to you on September 30, 2010 gave you a 15 day review period to answer us if you wish the available merchandising job, do you see that? A. I see it now. Q. Well, it was also set forth in September 30th, 2010 correspondence to you as well, correct, which you did receive?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. That's not an extension. I can't. Bobal already said I'm not qualified, 9-14. In regard to this letter, Exhibit 40, if I would have got it I would have been more than happy to sign up and fill the application out for that position because I have no seniority and no rights. Q. I just want to make sure I understand then. A. Sure. Q. Looking at Deposition Exhibit 33 A. Yeah. Q and you can read the paragraph on the first page that begins, "The company acknowledges" A. Yeah. Q. " with nearly a year
21 22 23 24 25	A. No, not like that, after review. This letter here says there's an available merchandising position. Q. Which is this letter? A. Your Exhibit 40.	21 22 23 24 25	passing now." A. I lost seniority. Q. Which concludes with, "this would most logically be a merchandising position," you did not understand that



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	Page 238		Page 240
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	the company was extending you the right past September 21st, 2010 to bump by seniority into a merchandising position? A. That's correct. Q. And you never asked Mike what he meant by that letter? A. Again, I sent him a letter for the rank on the seniority, rank on the lists, I wanted to talk about annual job bidding, I wanted to talk about seniority, the layoffs. Never got that opportunity. It's unfortunate. Q. I'm sorry, Mr. Potts. If you look at Deposition Exhibit, I believe it's 36, your October 15 letter—it's 37, excuse me, your October 15 letter? A. 37 is grievance 4956. Q. I apologize. You were holding this letter right here. A. 39, okay. I'm sorry. Q. 38. A. Okay.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22	branch manager, and Teamsters Local 377, did you receive this correspondence? A. No. Q. Union didn't give you a copy of this correspondence? A. No, I wish they did. Q. According to this correspondence it states that, and I'm going to paraphrase and feel free to correct me if I paraphrase incorrectly, that on September 30, 2010 the company extended you a written job offer for a merchandising position, requested you to indicate your acceptance by October 15, 2010, otherwise, the company would have to terminate your employment and you did not response to that job offer. Instead of terminating your employment, on October 14 the company give you additional time to accept the job offer and arranged a meeting for October 21 to discuss the matter. You didn't attend
23	A. Okay.Q. The only subject out of all	23 24	that meeting. Thus on October 21 the company
25	the ones you just enumerated that is	25	again extended the time until November
	Page 239		Page 241
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	actually contained within that deposition exhibit is your request to confirm your seniority on the plant-wide seniority list, correct? A. Correct. Q. I note on Deposition Exhibit 40 your union is copied on that correspondence, correct? A. Okay, yeah. Q. Union never passed that along to you? A. No, I wish they did. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-41 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you what's been	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	5th for you to consider the company's job offer, the merchandising position. Once again, you didn't respond. On November 10th, 2010 the company sent you additional correspondence giving you until November 19th to accept the merchandising position and again you didn't respond. And Mr. Karla also tried to call you by telephone on multiple occasions. As a result of your lack of response, in accordance with the seniority terms of the contract, your employment was to be terminated effective December 1st, 2010. Is that an accurate recitation of the document? A. Say that again, please. Q. Have I accurately represented
19 20 21	marked Deposition Exhibit 41. A. Yeah. Q. Copy of a correspondence from	19 20 21	the substance of this document? A. Today is the first time I see it, yeah.
22 23 24	Mr. Bobal to yourself sent certified mail, December 13th, 2010, copy to Jeff Karla, regional HR manager, Joe	22 23 24	Q. So you don't know what was said on the October 21st meeting with the company because you weren't there,
25	LaMantia, L A M A N T I A, Youngstown	25	correct?



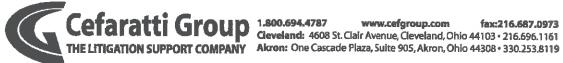
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THE LITIGATION SUPPORT COMPANY

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1	A. Correct.	4	•
2	Q. So if you didn't receive	1 2	MS. MCARDLE: Why don't we take a lunch break?
3	this document, Deposition Exhibit 41	3	(Luncheon recess had.)
4	A. Yes.	4	(Editorieors recess riad.)
5	Q when did you find out	5	¥6
6	that your employment had been	6	80 80
7	terminated?	7	5A ■V
8	A. I got a COBRA notice in the	8	€Q #¥
9	mail and I was shocked and surprised, it	9	X
10	said termination December 2nd.	10	•
11	Q. So the first time you	11	
12	realized that you had been terminated	12	•
13	from the company was in February of	13	
14	2011?	14	•
15	A. Yeah, I got a payroll check	15	* :
16	at December 23rd or 24th of 2010.	16	1)
17	Q. That was for a bonus,	17	7.0
18	correct?	18	10
19 20	A. That's what it said.	19 20	8
21	Q. You were not paid for any	21	5
22	wages, however, though, correct? A. I don't know if a bonus is	22	\$
23	considered wages. I just know it was	23	5
24	an amount. I assumed I was still	24	
25	employed, had health care, had	25	2.
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1	everything.	1	AFTERNOON-SESSION
2	Q. We don't have any	2	CONTINUED EXAMINATION OF ROBERT A, POTTS
3	documentation of any correspondence that	3	BY-MS.MCARDLE:
4	you sent to the union post October 2010,	4	Q. Mr. Potts, you understand
5	did you not write any correspondence to	5	you're still under oath?
6	the union?	6	A. Yes.
7	A. Please repeat that.	7	 Could you pull out Deposition
8	Q. We don't have any	8	Exhibit 16 for me, please? If you
9	correspondence that you wrote to the	9	could turn to ABC 70, I know we
10	union post October 2010, did you not	10	discussed Section 9 earlier at the
11	write any correspondence to the union	11	bottom of that page, I just wanted to
12	after that time?	12	clarify something. So under Section 9
13	A. I'm not sure, really.	13	it starts, "Under the following
14	Q. Well, you had several	14	conditions any employee shall lose his
15	outstanding grievances, correct?	15 16	seniority (terminated from employment)." So it was your understanding
16 17	A. Correct. Unfortunately, the union withdrew, vacated my membership	17	based on reviewing the collective
18	November 17, 2010. So I was out of the	18	bargaining agreement that losing your
19	union so they probably didn't want to	19	seniority was equivalent to termination
20	deal with me anymore. They send me a	20	of your employment?
21	refund check dated November 19, 2010. I	21	A. True.
22	got a check, refunded dues and backdated	22	Q. I know I asked whether the
23	and vacated it to March of 2010.	23	union passed along Exhibits 40 or 41 to
24	figured my grievances was done, I	24	you, on which the union is indicated as

		1	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Did the union ever give you a phone call and say, hey, Robert, we received this correspondence and let you know what was in it? A. Unfortunately, no. Q. Having and if you need to take the time, please do so, but having read 40 and 41, if you had received them would you have accepted the company's offer for the merchandising position? A. I definitely would have to consider it among all the other stuff. Q. I'm not sure what you mean among all the other stuff? A. Well, I would consider their offer together with the seniority, the annual job bidding, all that stuff. Q. I guess I'm not following. Your answer is that you would consider the offer but your acceptance would be dependent on other things, is that what you're saying? A. I said	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	MS. MCARDLE: Job bidding. MR. ROSSI: Job bidding. Thank you. Q. So I just want to make sure I understand your answer and I understand this is all in hindsight because you say you didn't receive these letters, but my understanding of what you just said is had you received the letters you're not sure whether you would have accepted the merchandising position because it depended upon the resolution of other items? A. Well, they would have to- Q. Is that true? A. You could say that. Q. I think you alluded to this earlier, you were paying union dues on a monthly basis, correct? A. Yes. Q. So as a result of that you certainly expected that the union would be acting on your behalf in matters relating to your employment with ABC, is
25	MR. ROSSI: Object to the extent	25	that right?
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	it calls for speculation, but go ahead, Robert. A. Okay. Well, really getting into the situation, there's still stuff that needed to be dealt with and unfortunately it wasn't. I never got any answers so I didn't get material, didn't get stuff, no meetings. I wasn't I don't know what's going on back and forth. So regarding to the annual job bidding I'm still there's an issue there why I wasn't involved with the annual job bidding, issues with the seniority stuff, regarding to the decisions of 9-30-2010, a lot of issues that would need to go together with this too. Q. Do you know why you weren't part of the annual job bidding? A. I wish I did, I don't know. Q. Did you ask ABC why you	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Yes. Q. And in connection with the issue of the September 2009 layoff and related matters, I guess is how you've described it, that were discussed at the September 14, 2010 meeting, you believed the union was acting upon your behalf, is that right? A. At that time, yes. Q. Is there a time that you believe the union stopped acting upon your behalf? A. Obviously, yes. Q. When do you believe that occurred that the union stopped acting on your behalf? A. You know, when I brought to their attention that there's no annual job bid for me, I didn't participate, wasn't called, discrepancies on the seniority lists, a lot of that stuff,
22 23 24 25	weren't part of the annual job bidding? A. I didn't get the opportunity. MR. ROSSI: I'm sorry, the annual what?	22 23 24 25	plus they vacated my membership, refunded my money for the dues back to March, obviously they didn't want nothing to do with me.



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1	Q. So is there a date upon	1	THE REPORTER: You said Exhibits
2	which you believe the union ceased	2	41 and 42.
3	acting on your behalf?	3	Q. I'm sorry, thank you. I
4	A. Definitely I would say	4	meant to say 40 and 41. So your answer
5	November 17, 2010.	5 6	doesn't change though, the first time
7	Q. Why does November 17, 2010 stick in your mind as the date that the	7	you learned you hadn't received 40 and 41 was during discovery in this case?
8	union stopped acting on your behalf, is	8	A. Yes.
9	that when they notified you that you	9	Q. And I think those were
10	were they refunded your dues and that	10	produced sometime in April or May of
111	they were retroactively terminating your	11	2011 to your attorney, does that sound
12	membership in the Teamsters?	12	about right?
13	A. Sometime after that, I don't	13	A. It sounds right.
14	know the specific dates but that's the	14	Q. When you first then realized
15	dates on their correspondence,	15	in April or May of 2011 that you hadn't
16	everything is backdated. There is stuff	16	received this correspondence, Deposition
17	from December but dated November.	17	Exhibits 40 and 41, did you try to
18	Q. So up until learning that	18	contact the company and say, hey, I
19	the union was refunding your dues and	19	think there's been a misunderstanding?
20	removing you from the roles of Teamsters	20	A. Michael already Bobal
21 22	you had every reason to believe they	21 22	already said don't call him, talk to him
23	were acting on your behalf in connection with employment matters relating to ABC?	23	or anything, October 25th, 2010 so there's nothing I can do about it. My
24	A. Yeah, I thought they would.	24	union membership is vacated 11-17-2010,
25	Q. I wanted to clarify something	25	I got nobody to contact, talk, consult,
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١.			•
1	about Deposition Exhibit 33, that's the	1	nothing.
2	September 30, 2010 letter from Mr. Bobal.	2	Q. So despite the fact that you
3 4	A. Okay.	4	obviously filed a lawsuit over the end of your employment with ABC you didn't
5	Q. I want to make sure I	5	even try to contact somebody at the
6	understand, notwithstanding the contents	6	company and say, hey, I never got this
7	of Deposition Exhibit 33 you believed	7	correspondence, Deposition Exhibits 40
8	you lost your seniority on September	8	and 41, and can we talk about the
9	21st, 2010?	9	merchandising position?
10	A. It's fact, true, yes.	10	A. Well, I got legal counsel
11	Q. I didn't ask you this	11	and obviously I can't talk about it when
12	question about 41 and 40, when did you	12	you got an attorney, they can't talk to
13	first realize that you had not received	13	me. You know, back to the benefits you
14	copies of these letters?	14	said don't contact them and I had to
15 16	A. When my lawyer	15 16	dial the 800 number, so I didn't contact
17	Q. And don't tell me anything	17	anybody. Q. You testified earlier that
18	he said but please continue. A. When my lawyer showed me at	18	the first time you realized your
19	the office.	19	termination was effective December 1,
20	Q. So the first time you	20	2010 was when you received your COBRA
21	realized that you had not received	21	notice, is that right?
22	copies of Exhibits 41 and 42 was during	22	A. First time the COBRA notice
23	discovery in this case?	23	said December 2nd, 2010. It was dated,
24	A. True.	24	I believe, February 18th, I don't
25	Q. And I think	25	remember when it reached the mailbox.



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1 2 3 4 5	Q. But that was when you learned that your termination was effective, we'll use December 2nd, 2010? A. I was surprised, that was a big surprised, yes.	1 2 3 4 5	 A. No, didn't get the opportunity. Q. Any other reason why you believe Mr. Bobal's conduct had anything to do with your raising the 2010 vehicle
6	Q. So the same question about	6	issue?
7 8 9 10	that. Did you at that point call anybody at ABC or ask counsel to do so on your behalf and say, hey, wait a minute, I didn't understand this to be	7 8 9	A. Say that again, please. Q. Any other reason why you think Mr. Bobal's conduct had anything to do with your raising the 2010 vehicle
11	the case?	11	issue?
12 13 14	A. Again, Mr. Bobal says don't contact him, don't write him, don't telephone him, fax him, anything. The	12 13 14	 A. That should cover it. Q. With regard to Mr. Taraba, why do you think Mr. Taraba's conduct
15 16 17	union got me vacated, I don't have any union member, I don't have nobody. Done. MR. ROSSI: Excuse me a second.	15 16 17	had anything to do with your raising to 2010 vehicle issue? A. Well, it makes him look bad.
18 19	(Discussion between witness and his counsel.)	18 19	Q. Any other reason why you think Mr. Taraba's conduct had anything
20 21	MR. ROSSI: Thank you. Q. And I wanted to revisit some	20 21	to do with your raising the 12010 vehicle issue?
22 23	of your earlier testimony because I don't think I asked you this question:	22 23	A. That should cover it.Q. And with regards to Mr.
24 25	I had asked you to identify those individuals within ABC whom you feel	24 25	Stimmel, why is it that you think Mr. Stimmel's conduct had anything do with
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1 2 3 4 5	retaliated against you and you identified within ABC you identified John Taraba, Mike Bobal and Bill Stimmel, correct? A. Yes.	1 2 3 4 5	your raising the 2010 vehicle issue? A. Same reason, looks bad too. Q. Any other reason? A. That covers it. Q. Up until the time you
6 7 8 9	Q. And then I asked you what conduct they engaged in and you described the conduct that they engaged in that you felt amounted to	6 7 8 9	received the COBRA notice dated February 18, 2011 you were still covered under the company's health benefit plan,
10 11 12	in that you felt amounted to retaliation, do you recall that testimony?	10 11	correct? A. I believe so. Q. And you were paying you
13 14	A. Okay, yeah. Q. Let's start with Mr. Bobal. Why do you think Mr. Bobal's conduct had	12 13 14	paid a portion of your premiums which were equivalent to those rates that you paid as an active employee, is that
15 16 17	anything to do with you raising the 2010 vehicle issue? A. Well, his action is personal	15 16 17	right? A. I am not sure. If that what it is, so be it.
18 19 20	against me. Q. I'm not A. He says it's harassment so	18 19 20	Q. You were paying in the neighborhood of \$40 a month for medical, vision and dental, correct?
21 22	he said he had a harassment issue to deal with, he said 9-14-2010.	21 22	A. Yeah, that sounds right.
23 24 25	Q. And you testified earlier you didn't ask him what harassment issue he was referring to?	23 24 25	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-18 was marked for purposes of identification.)



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 18, which you produced, this appears to be a billing notice from Dr. Pepper Snapple dated November 10th, 2010 addressed to you at the Jeanette Drive address and there's a receipt attached at the bottom in the first and the second page, it looks like. My question is, this is a copy of a billing notice for your health benefits during this period of time and is this receipt your record of payment of those benefits? A. Fair enough, it appears to be. Q. And following up on the question I just asked you before showing you the document, if you turn to the second page of Deposition Exhibit 18 it shows medical, dental and vision coverage for the period December 1st, 2010 through December 31st, 2010 with	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Yes. Q. So when you received this document you understood that you were still qualified for benefits through the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, is that right? A. Through my open enrollment, yes. Q. And, again, looking at the charges on that first page, looks like for medical, it says employee assistance program and dental, you're paying in the neighborhood of \$35 a month, is that right? A. Fair enough. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-20 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 20, another	
24	the total billing charge of 39.25, do	24	document you produced. This is a	
25	you see that?	25	billing notice from Dr. Pepper Snapple,	
1	Page 259		Page 261	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Yes. Q. So that refreshes your recollection that you were paying in the neighborhood of \$40 a month for medical, dental and vision? A. Sure. Q. For December of 2010 benefits? A. Sure. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-19 was marked for purposes of identification.)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	statement date February 10th, 2011 to you at the Jeanette Drive address and it says it's a bill for your benefit coverage. It also appears that there's another customer receipt attached down at the bottom, is that the receipt for the amount that you paid for that benefit period? A. Appears to be, yes. Q. And, again, flipping to the second page it seems that the medical, dental and vision payments that you're paying for that period total \$40.25? A. Correct.	
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 19, this is a document that you produced from Dr. Pepper Snapple entitled welfare plan, confirmation of enrollment, statement date November 16, 2010 addressed to you at the Jeanette Drive address. And this confirms benefits coverage and benefits being effective January 1st, 2011 until December 31st, 2011 unless a qualified change in status cccurs, do you see	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Did you ever wonder why you were still receiving billing for benefits and entitled to benefits after you had lost your seniority as you understood it as of September 21st, 09 or excuse, 2010? A. Well, I figured I was still paying my union dues, there was an issue there that was never resolved because there was an accountability issue with money and that still gives me the right,	



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	that was never resolved with union rights stuff because there's an accounting issue that was never resolved that I thought, you know, I could still go back to that higher up but never did. And also I believed I was still employed at that time despite union doing whatever they did. Q. So despite the fact that you believed your seniority that you lost your seniority September 21st, 2010, you still believed you were entitled to benefit coverage after that point? A. I don't know too much about what the union rights are, stuff on that. I assume I was still entitled being a card holder and I know I could still pay dues for six months after anything and I didn't get that opportunity to continue paying my union	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. The union, the company, concerted, unconcerted, I don't know, each party is engaging in backdating. Q. Who at the company is engaging in backdating? A. I wouldn't know. Q. And what document do you assert the company has backdated? A. Benefit stuff has different dates changing all the time. Q. I'm sorry, what benefits dates are changing all the time? A. A lot of the COBRA stuff dates was changed, enrollment dates, coverage dates. Q. In fact, the company extended your period of time to elect COBRA to May 29th, 2010 in light of the reissuance of the COBRA notice, correct? A. On my calls, yes.	
21 22 23 24 25	dues from December or from October 15th on. Like I said, they vacated it, the union membership status, refunded the money, the issue was never resolved, they never responded to my communication	21 22 23 24 25	Q. The question I had was, in fact, the company extended the period in which you could elect COBRA coverage through May 29th, 2011 after reissuing a COBRA notice in March of 2011, correct?	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. In fact, you testified that the union withdrew your membership in November of 2010, correct? A. Correct. Q. But you were still receiving, at least according to Deposition Exhibit 20, benefit statements covering periods past that into February 2011? A. I recall a date on that of being December 9th. I don't know why they're backdating stuff. I don't know if they're misrepresenting, I don't know what they're doing, everything Q. I'm sorry, who's backdating stuff? A. The union. The material they give me says signed under their hand and seal December 9th, 2010. So backdating everybody is backdating and substituting dates and everything else, you know, why are the union	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Yes. Q. Upon receipt of the February 2011 COBRA notice when you learned that your employment had been terminated effective December 2nd, 2010, did the company ever request that you reimburse them for the difference between COBRA coverage rates and what you paid? A. Nothing, no. Q. And to your point you filed the second amended complaint, I believe we determined, on March 1st, 2011 in which you asserted your COBRA notice claims and within three weeks ABC issued a new COBRA notice, correct? A. I recall, yes. Q. Now, despite receiving this COBRA notice, this updated COBRA notice, in March of 2011 you contacted the Department of Labor and claimed that ABC was not permitting you to elect COBRA, correct?	
23 24 25	different than the company. Q. Who's everybody, sir, that's backdating and substituting dates?	23 24 25	A. Yes. Q. And the ABC benefits manager attempted on several occasions to	



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1	contact you indicating it was trying to	1	Q. Shortly before you filed the	
2	assist you in electing COBRA?	2	second amended complaint that's	
3	 A. We contacted each other back 	3	Deposition Exhibit 1, you also filed a	
4	and forth.	4	NLRB charge against ABC, is that right?	
5	Q. And then at some point, I	5	A. Yes, it's withdrawn.	
6	believe in early May of 2011 you	6	Q. Yes, the NLRB withdrew that	
7	contacted ABC's benefit center and	7	charge, correct?	
8	stated words to the effect of you	8	A. I did.	
9	thought someone else was attempting to	9	Q. Why did you withdraw that	
10	elect COBRA on your behalf?	10	charge?	
11	A. I may have said that.	11	 A. Because I have no experience 	
12	Q. Who did you believe was	12	with all that and just withdrew it.	
13	attempting to elect COBRA on your	13	Q. So your withdrawing of the	
14	behalf?	14	charge had nothing to do with the fact	
15	A. I don't know.	15	that the NLRB contacted you and said	
16	Q. You also told the ABC	16	that you must provide them with an	
17	benefits center that you did not plan to	17	affidavit for them to continue	
18	elect COBRA at that time?	18	processing your charge?	
19	A. Under the circumstances of	19	A. No, I got more I'd be	
20	all the confusion and the process with	20	more than happy to take the affidavit	
21	the date being extended, that's true.	21	with them or draft it myself and go	
22	Q. And you also told the ABC	22	before a notary.	
23	benefit center sometime in the beginning	23	 Q. So I just want to make sure 	
24	of 2011 that you were unclear about your	24	I understand, you decided not to pursue	
25	employment status with ABC?	25	the NLRB charge against ABC because you	
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1	A. Possible.	1	don't have experience in those matters?	
2	Q. How is it that you were	2	A. Yeah, I just basically	
3	unclear about your employment status as	3	decided to drop it. I just decided my	
4	late at early May of 2011?	4	choice and withdrew it. I did one	
5	A. Well, because there's a lot	5	against the union and I withdrew it too.	
6	of unanswered questions.	6	Q. That was going to be my next	
7	Q. Such as what?	7	question. After the NLRB or after the	
8	A. Back to the annual job	8	charge against ABC was withdrawn you	
9	bidding, seniority stuff, employee	9	filed one against the union, correct?	
10	rights, union rights, my status, there's	10	A. Correct.	
11	a lot.	11	Q. And you said you decided to	
12	Q. So despite receiving a COBRA	12	withdraw that charge?	
13	notice that indicated your termination	13	A. Yeah.	
14	was effective December 2nd, 2010 you	14	Q. Why did you withdraw that	
15 16	were unclear about that?	15	charge against the union?	
17	A Even the dates on that, when	16	A. My choice.	
18	the company says December 1st, then the	17	Q. I understand it was your	
19	company says December 2nd, there's even confusion in those two dates.	18	choice, but what was your rationale for	
20		19	withdrawing the charge against the	
21	Q. Yes, the company did say	20	union?	
22	effective December 1st, 2010, correct?	21	A. Just picked up the phone and	
23	A. The company also said	22	say withdraw it.	
24	December 2nd, 2010 and I also got a payroll check December 23rd, 2010 when I	23	Q. Maybe I'm asking a poor	
25	believed I was still employed.	24	question. I understand that's the	
23	believed i was still employed.	25	mechanism by which you did it but why	



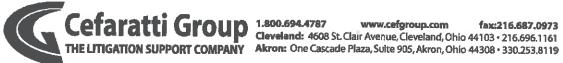
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did you decide to withdraw that charge, not how? A. Didn't want to cause any more friction between union and whatever else, just to drop it, withdraw. Q. Did you receive any communications from the union after you filed that charge? A. None. Q. So what friction are you referring to? A. Back and forth, I mean, there was a lot of, you know, I'm telling them about accountability, about union dues, money, I'm saying that they mismanaged, there's accounting errors, there's maybe wrongdoing. So I started some issues in the union internally, didn't jive, didn't wasn't logical. Didn't get anywhere, nobody cared. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-21 was marked for purposes of identification.)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. That will work. Q. And that's your signature under the declaration section of the document? A. Yeah. Q. Right above your signature it says, "I declare that I read the above charge and the statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief." Did I read that correctly? A. Yes. Q. So in signing this declaration you were in fact asserting to the NLRB that the contents of your charge against ABC was true to the best of your knowledge and belief? A. Yeah. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-23 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Showing you what's been marked as Deposition Exhibit 23, is this
	25	a copy of the charge you filed against
Page 271 Q. I don't think I actually	1	Page 273 the union with the NLRB?
been marked as Deposition Exhibit 21, can you confirm that this is the updated COBRA notice that was issued to you by the company on or about March 23rd, 2011? A. It appears to be. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-22 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you Deposition Exhibit 22, is this the charge that you filed against ABC with the National Labor Relations Board? A. It was an amended charge, I believe. I can't recall. Possible. Q. I believe that you filed or at least had a charge that was not signed and then you submitted one that was signed and this is the signed	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Yes, it was drafted on my behalf, yes. Q. And this is your signature in the declaration section? A. Yeah. Q. This document also states above your signature, "I declare that I read the above charge and that the statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief." Did I read that correctly? A. Yeah. Q. And signing this document, Deposition Exhibit 23, you were certifying to NLRB that the contents of your charge against the union and the statements made therein were true to the best of your knowledge and belief, correct? A. Yes. Q. The second paragraph of your charge against the union you say, "On or about November 17th, 2010 it, a labor
	did you decide to withdraw that charge, not how? A. Didn't want to cause any more friction between union and whatever else, just to drop it, withdraw. Q. Did you receive any communications from the union after you filed that charge? A. None. Q. So what friction are you referring to? A. Back and forth, I mean, there was a lot of, you know, I'm telling them about accountability, about union dues, money, I'm saying that they mismanaged, there's accounting errors, there's maybe wrongdoing. So I started some issues in the union internally, didn't jive, didn't wasn't logical. Didn't get anywhere, nobody cared. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-21 was marked for purposes of identification.) Page 271 Q. I don't think I actually introduced this. I'm handing you what's been marked as Deposition Exhibit 21, can you confirm that this is the updated COBRA notice that was issued to you by the company on or about March 23rd, 2011? A. It appears to be. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-22 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you Deposition Exhibit-22 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you Deposition Exhibit-22 was marked for purposes of identification.) A. It was an amended charge, I believe. I can't recall. Possible. Q. I believe that you filed or at least had a charge that was not signed and then you submitted one that	A. Didn't want to cause any more friction between union and whatever else, just to drop it, withdraw. Q. Did you receive any communications from the union after you filed that charge? A. None. Q. So what friction are you referring to? A. Back and forth, I mean, there was a lot of, you know, I'm telling them about accountability, about union dues, money, I'm saying that they mismanaged, there's accounting errors, there's maybe wrongdoing. So I started some issues in the union internally, didn't jive, didn't wasn't logical. Didn't get anywhere, nobody cared. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-21 was marked for purposes of identification.) Page 271 Q. I don't think I actually introduced this. I'm handing you what's been marked as Deposition Exhibit 21, can you confirm that this is the updated COBRA notice that was issued to you by the company on or about March 23rd, 2011? A. It appears to be. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit 22, was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you Deposition Exhibit-22 was marked for purposes of identification.) Q. Handing you Deposition Exhibit-22, is this the charge that you filed against ABC with the National Labor Relations Board? A. It was an amended charge, I believe. I can't recall. Possible. Q. I believe that you filed or at least had a charge that was not signed and then you submitted one that was signed and then you submitted one that was signed and this is the signed version of it, does that refresh your



	DEFOSITION OF I	(ODI	LIII A.I OTTO
	Page 274		Page 276
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	and representatives, caused American Bottling Company dba 7-Up Bottling Co. to discriminate against Robert Potts, (1)in violation of Section 8(a)(3) of the Act and (2) whose membership in the said labor organization was terminated for reasons other than failure to tender periodic dues uniformly required as a condition of membership." Did I read that correctly? A. Yes. Q. Do you know what an 8(a)(3) violation is? A. Catherine drafted it on my behalf, I really don't know. Q. Okay. A. Catherine Modic, I think. Q. You indicate in here that the union caused ABC to discriminate against you? A. Where are you reading that? Q. The sentence I just read. A. On or about what? Q. In that paragraph right	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	above for the date for the second paragraph. Q. Setting aside the date A. Oh. Q what do you understand that you were saying to NLRB when you certified that the union had caused ABC to discriminate against you to be a true statement? A. Oh, when they vacated my membership, you know, I got no protection for the union. Q. So the discrimination referred to in that sentence relates to the vacating of your union membership? A. Yeah, I'm not covered by any union anything and obviously them two can get together and concerted, you know, whatever. Q. I'm not following because this doesn't say concerted. This says that A. Yeah. Q the union caused ABC to
25	before the number 1.	25	discriminate against you. What I'm
1 2	Page 275 A. What paragraph, second paragraph?	1 2	Page 277 trying to understand is when you certified that the information set forth
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MR. ROSSI: Right here, caused these parties to discriminate against Robert Potts. A. Yeah, there was an amended charge here so that I forgot what the amendment it was December, I think. Q. I'm sorry?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	in this charge was true to the best your knowledge and belief, what did you understand you were certifying as it relates to the union's causing ABC to discriminate against you? A. I believe it was true based on Catherine drafting it. I don't know what language, why she chose it.
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. I don't know why she wrote November 17th there. I eventually amended this charge. Q. What did you change in the amended charge? A. I have to look at it. She amended it for me too, Catherine Modic. Q. Yes. To my knowledge there was no amended charge that we were	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. So you don't have any idea what the discrimination that is referred to in this charge relates to? A. No. In good faith I thought Catherine was drafting it. (Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-24 was marked for purposes of identification.)
20 21 22 23 24 25	provided, but setting that aside, what did you mean by the union caused ABC to discriminate against you? A. Again, Catherine Modic, the NLRB agent, drafted this on my behalf. She must have used the dates on the	20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. Showing you what's been marked Deposition Exhibit 24 A. Yes. Q this is a document that you produced to us in discovery, this is



	——————————————————————————————————————		
	Page 278		Page 280
1	a copy of your current resume?	1	Q. You weren't performing work
2	A. Sure.	2	for them?
3	Q. Is anything inaccurate in	3	A. Right.
4	Deposition Exhibit 24?	4	Q. So other than the date for
5	A. Maybe because there's	5	Sypris is there anything else that's not
6	discrepancies on the end date for	6	accurate in Deposition Exhibit 24?
7	Sypris.	7	A. Let's see. Oh, full-time
8	Q. What do you mean by that?	8	stuff looks okay. Sure.
9	A. Well, I was eligible for TAA	9	Q. So according to Deposition
10	but there's disputing dates saying 06,	10	Exhibit 24, prior to Sypris you worked
11	08, it's unresolved so	11	for a company called Neff-Perkins, is
12	Q. TAA, is that referring to	12	that right?
13 14	retirement benefits, what does that	13	A. Yeah.
15	refer to?	14	/TI
16	A. I'm new to all that. Trade act	15 16	(Thereupon, Deposition
17	MR. ROSSI: Trade Adjustment Act.	17	Exhibit-42 was marked for
18	Q. Trade Adjustment Act, okay.	18	purposes of identification.)
19	I'm sorry, so you're saying oh, I	19	Q. Showing you what's been
20	see what you're so this relates to	20	marked Deposition Exhibit 42, this is a
21	employee benefits that Sypris may or may	21	document we received in response to a
22	not be obligated to provide under the	22	subpoena issued to Neff-Perkins Company
23	TAA?	23	for your personnel records. This bears
24	A. Union issues again, I have	24	Bates label Neff-Perkins 36 through 41
25	seniority, the plant closed at Sypris in	25	and appears to be a copy of your job
	Page 279		Page 281
1 1	2009, my seniority should have went into	1	application for Neff
2	2009 at the plant closure but my	2	A. Yes.
3	seniority went to June 1st, 2008 but,	3	Q Perkins Company. With
4	however, my last day physically in the	4	regards to this document, Deposition
5	plant was in October 26th, 27th of 2006.	5	Exhibit 42, is there anything inaccurate
6	But still under the collective	6	in this document?
7	bargaining agreement, still an employee	7	A. Yes.
8	covered by seniority. So with the TAA	8	Q. What's inaccurate?
9	I don't know what's going on with that,	9	A. Employment history,
10	may or may not, all new to it.	10	references.
11 12	Q. So, in other words, I think	11	Q. Those are inaccurate?
13	what you're saying is that you were	12	A. Yeah.
14	notified you were being laid off on	13	Q. I'm sorry?
15	October 26th, 2006 with and under the terms of the applicable collective	14	A. Yes.
16	bargaining agreement your seniority	15 16	Q. Specifically what about your
17	would continue for a period, I believe,	17	employment history is not accurate? A. I never worked for any of
18	of four years?	18	them companies.
19	A. Yeah.	19	Q. And then about the
20	Q. But you didn't physically	20	references, what is not accurate?
21	work for Sypris after October 26th,	21	A. Don't know any of them.
22	2006?	22	Don't know if they exist, nothing.
23	A. I was still employed, I	23	Q. Do you have an idea, an
24	guess, under the seniority, but I wasn't	24	understanding of why you included that
25	there.	25	information in this application if you



	Page 282		Page 284
1	didn't work for those companies and	1	learn that Neff-Perkins records show
2	those individuals you don't know?	2	that you were a no call no show for two
3	 A. You have to ask the company, 	3	days at which time they deemed you to
4	don't know nothing about it.	4	quit your employment?
5	Q. I'm not sure what you mean.	5	A. Wouldn't surprise me.
6	I have to ask the company about your	6	Q. Why would that not surprise
7	employment application and the	7	you, because it's true?
8	information you put in your application?	8	A. They can do whatever they
9	A. Well, I mean, I'm not even	9	want.
10	sure if this is the actual application	10	Q. So are you asserting that
11	but I don't know if this is a page	11	Neff-Perkins has fabricated a document
12	in order from what I did, but I'm	12	relating to how it is you left their
13	telling you it's inaccurate.	13	employment?
14	Q. So are you asserting that	14	A. Sure.
15		15	
16	you did not complete this employment	16	Q. Just like the union is
17	application?	17	fabricating documents and the company is
	A. At least not that section or		fabricating documents?
18	a part of whatever the record is.	18	A. Yeah, this is a different
19	Q. So you're saying that's not	19	MR. ROSSI: Objection. Don't
20	your handwriting?	20	answer.
21	A. It's possible. I don't know	21	Q. Actually you're required to
22	what this is with this part of the	22	answer the question. The only time you
23	application in sequence or why it's	23	can't answer a question during a
24	there.	24	deposition
25	(Discussion between witness and	25	MR. ROSSI: It wasn't a question,
	Page 283		Page 285
1	his counsel.)	1	it was an argument. Don't answer it.
2	Q. Looking at Deposition Exhibit	2	Q. Are you asserting
3	25.	3	MR. ROSSI: No.
4	A . 2 5.	4	Q that Neff-Perkins is
5	MR. ROSSI: Your resume.	5	fabricating documents in its personnel
6	Q. I would like to look at the	6	file pertaining to you?
7	second part of Deposition Exhibit 25	7	MR. ROSSI: Go ahead.
8	which is your application for employment	8	B. 11
			A. It appear so.
9	with ABC company.	9	A. It appear so. Q. So as you sit here today
10			
10 11	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly.	9	Q. So as you sit here today
10	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them?	9 10	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position
10 11 12 13	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is.	9 10 11	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two
10 11 12 13 14	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that.	9 10 11 12	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them
10 11 12 13 14 15	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your	9 10 11 12 13	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment?
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the	9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question. Sitting here today under oath it's your testimony that you did not engage in a
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes. Q. You have Neff-Perkins Company	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question. Sitting here today under oath it's your testimony that you did not engage in a no call no show on two days which led
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes. Q. You have Neff-Perkins Company listed there?	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question. Sitting here today under oath it's your testimony that you did not engage in a
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes. Q. You have Neff-Perkins Company listed there? A. Yes.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question. Sitting here today under oath it's your testimony that you did not engage in a no call no show on two days which led to the termination of your employment
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes. Q. You have Neff-Perkins Company listed there? A. Yes. Q. And you say the reason for	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question. Sitting here today under oath it's your testimony that you did not engage in a no call no show on two days which led to the termination of your employment with Neff-Perkins?
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	with ABC company. MR. ROSSI: Okay. You got them? A. Not finding them quickly. MR. ROSSI: Here, try that. A. Oh, here it is. Q. If you could turn to the employment history section of your application with ABC. A. Yes. Q. You have Neff-Perkins Company listed there? A. Yes. Q. And you say the reason for leaving is short-term/seasonal, do you	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. So as you sit here today testifying under oath it's your position you were not a no call no show for two days at Neff-Perkins which led to them ending your employment? A. I did everything they asked at all times. Q. That's not my question. Sitting here today under oath it's your testimony that you did not engage in a no call no show on two days which led to the termination of your employment with Neff-Perkins?



		ICD	
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1 2	purposes of identification.)	1 2	A. 3, where is 3, what do you mean 3?
3	MS. MCARDLE: I'm just going to	3	MR. ROSSI: Page 3?
4	put this in for the record. This is	4	Q. It's Bates labeled 2 through
5	Deposition Exhibit 43 which is a copy of	5	4
6 7	the change in status form that was	6	A. Oh, okay, I'm sorry, yes.
8	submitted to us in response to a subpoena issued to Neff-Perkins, which	7 8	Q so that would be the
9	also along with it was an affidavit of	9	second page. A. Okay.
10	authenticity of the contents of your	10	Q. And I believe you testified
11	personnel file.	11	in connection with your application to
12	MR. ROSSI: What Exhibit Number	12	Neff-Perkins that you had not worked for
13	is this?	13	these companies?
14	MS. MCARDLE: 43.	14	A. Yeah, correct.
15 16	Q. Now, again, according to your	15	Q. So these entities that you
17	resume, which is Deposition Exhibit 24, prior to Neff-Perkins you worked for a	16 17	listed as being your present and past
18	company called General Extrusions, is	18	employment, you in fact did not work there?
19	that right?	19	A. That's correct.
20	A. Yes.	20	Q. How about the personal
21		21	references, do you know any of those
22	(Thereupon, Deposition	22	people?
23 24	Exhibit-44 was marked for	23	A. I don't know if they exist
25	purposes of identification.)	24 25	or not. Don't know anybody. Q. The last page of this
	5	23	
1	Page 287		Page 289
1	Q. Showing you what's been	1	document, last page of this document, is
2 3	marked as Deposition Exhibit 44, it's a	2	that your signature, sir?
4	copy of a document that we received in response to a subpoena issued to General	3	A. Yes. Q. And it's dated on or about
5	Extrusions for the contents of your	5	October 24, 2005?
6	personnel records and accompanying the	6	A. Yeah.
7	response was also an affidavit	7	Q. This document says at the
8	certifying the authenticity of the	8	top, "Please read and sign below," in
9	documents contained in that file. Is	9	all caps. It says, "I understand and
10 11	this a copy of your application for	10	agree that any material
12	employment with GEI? A. It appears to be.	11 12	misrepresentation or deliberate omission of a fact in my application may be
13	Q. Is that your handwriting,	13	justification for refusal or, if
14	sir?	14	employed, termination from employment."
15	A. It appears to be.	15	Did I read that correctly?
16	Q. This document is Bates	16	A. Yes.
17	labeled General Extrusions 2 through 4,	17	Q. So you signed this document
18 19	and turning to General Extrusions number	18	certifying to GEI that the contents of
20	3 you indicated, I believe, in response to questions related to your application	19 20	the document contained no material
21	with Neff-Perkins that you had never	21	misrepresentation or deliberate omission of fact, correct?
22	worked for these companies, is that	22	A. Correct.
23	right?	23	Q. Yet you included information
24	A. Where are we at?	24	for entities you never worked for and
25	Q. It's General Extrusions 3.	25	references of people you don't know?



		TODI	
	Page 290		Page 292
1	A. I don't know if it was the	1	Q. The assignment ended?
2	complete document that was signed by me.	2	A. Yeah, yes, my assignment
3	Page 1 or the Bates number 2 looks	3	ended.
4	correct and Bates number 4, page 3 looks	4	Q. So who was the individual
5	correct. Really, I don't know what to	5	that told you your assignment ended?
6	say about 3, I can't answer that it,	6	A. I can't recall.
7	ask the company.	7	 Q. Because this references that
8	Q. Are you asserting that's not	8	you shall leave employment with the
9	your handwriting?	9	company two weeks before the above date.
10	A It's possible.	10	It doesn't say anything about now that
11	 Q. So is GEI another company 	11	my assignment is over I'm done and out
12	that you are claiming is falsifying	12	of here, right?
13	documentation pertaining to you?	13	A. I didn't subscribe my
14	MR. ROSSI: Objection,	14	signature on this. I don't know if
15	foundation.	15	it's out of context or I just know
16 17	Q. I'm asking what you're	16	completed my assignment.
18	claiming, either you are or you're not.	17	Q. Flipping the page there's an
19	Are you claiming that GEI is yet another entity that is falsifying documentation	18 19	attached document from your personnel
20	as it relates to you?	20	file at GEI entitled separation notice? A. Yes.
21	A. I don't know if they are or	21	
22	not.	22	Q. Date hire, October 26th of05, and says type of separation,
23	Q. So this could be your	23	resignation, do you see that?
24	handwriting, you're just	24	A. Yes.
25	A. It's possible, I don't know.	25	Q. It also states under remarks,
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١.			-
1	(Discussion between witness and	1	nonvested probationary employee, do you
2	his counsel.)	2	see that?
3 4	/Thereuman Denocition	3	A. Yes.
5	(Thereupon, Deposition Exhibit-45 was marked for	4	Q. Did you understand that you
6	purposes of identification.)	5 6	were having only worked for GEI for
7	purposes of identification.)	7	a period of less than two months you were still a probationary employee?
8	Q. Handing you what's been	8	A. If that's the case, fine.
9	marked Deposition Exhibit 45, another	9	A. II tilat's tile case, lille.
10	document we received from GEI in	10	(Thereupon, Deposition
11	response to the subpoena that we issued	11	Exhibit-46 was marked for
12	for your personnel records. This	12	purposes of identification.)
13	document appears to be a letter from you	13	
14	to GEI dated December 16, 2005 in which	14	Q. Showing you what's been
15	you're tendering your resignation	15	marked Deposition Exhibit 46 there
16	effective December 30, 2005, is that	16	you go, Mike this appears to be a
17	right?	17	letter to you dated January 4, 2006 from
18	A. It appears.	18	GEI. It appears to be responding to
19	Q. You had worked there for	19	correspondence that perhaps you had sent
20	about two months before you tendered	20	to GEI questioning your eligibility and
21	your resignation, is that right?	21	participation in their health and life
22	A. It appears.	22	insurance programs, do you see that?
23	Q. Why did you resign?	23	A. I see it.
24	A. I did everything they asked,	24	Q. Did you contact GEI about
25	everything was completed, I was done.	25	benefits that you felt that you were



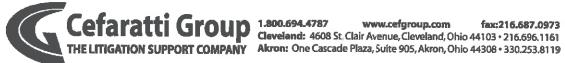
	Page 294		Page 296
1	owed after you resigned employment?	1	the light at the end of tunnel.
2	A. No.	2	A. I think two was in plain
3	Q. So they just GEI just	3	view and I think one was as a result of
4	sent you this correspondence out of the	4	illegal search, that's what I recall.
5	blue?	5	Q. So just to understand then,
6	 A. I don't know, you have to 	6	two of the knives were in plain view
7	ask them.	7	and one was what, not in plain view or
8	Q. Did you contact GEI about	8	was in plain view and you just felt it
9	continuation of coverage after you had	9	was an illegal search?
10	resigned your employment with GEI in	10	A. I don't know what they did
11	December of 05?	11	with that, you have to ask whomever.
12	 A. i didn't have any coverage 	12	Q. Well, you filed a lawsuit
13	with GEI.	13	against the trooper
14	Q. You've never filed a claim	14	A. Sure.
15	for Social Security benefits, have you?	15	Q in relation to that,
16	A. No.	16	correct?
17	 Q. You've been arrested before, 	17	A. Sure, absolutely.
18	is that right?	18	Q. Before you were arrested for
19	MR. ROSSI: Object, relevance.	19	possession of a concealed weapon on that
20	Q. You're required to answer the	20	occasion you were attempting to evade
21	question.	21	the trooper in your Trans Am because you
22	A. Define arrest.	22	were speeding, correct?
23	Q. How do you define arrest?	23	A. False information. No
24	A. I don't know what the legal	24	charges of any evade or elude.
25	definition is. Incarcerated? No.	25	Q. I'm not talking about
	Page 295		Page 297
1	Q. Have you been read your	1	charges, sir, I'm asking about facts.
2	Miranda rights?	2	A. False.
3	A. I may have.	3	Q. So you were not attempting
4	Q. On how many occasions do you	4	to evade the police officer?
5	recall being read your Miranda rights?	5	A. No.
6	MR. ROSSI: Continuing objection.	6	Q. So as soon as he turned his
7	A. I can't recall.	7	lights on you pulled over and stopped?
8	Q. More than once?	8	A. Sure.
9	A. Possible.	9	Q. Now, you were, as I said,
10	Q. One of those times you were	10	charged and convicted for possession of
11	read your Miranda rights, that was in	11	a for carrying a concealed weapon and
12	1996 when you were arrested for carrying	12	that was something you appealed in
13	a concealed weapon?	13	court, correct?
14	 A. I didn't have anything, 	14	A. Yeah, public record.
15	concealed weapon.	15	Q. Have you been charged with
16	Q. So you're saying none of the	16	any other crimes other than carrying a
17	three knives that you had in your Trans	17	concealed weapon since you testified
18	Am were concealed at any point in time?	18	that you have been read your Miranda
19	A. Plain view.	19	rights on more than one occasion?
20	Q. All three of them?	20	A. I haven't been convicted on
21	A. I'd have to look at the	21	anything, no.
22	record.	22	Q. I'm not asking about
23	Q. Best recollection?	23	convictions, I said charged?
24	MR. ROSSI: I hope the quality	24	A. It's possible.
25	of these questions mean we're getting to	25	Q. What else have you been



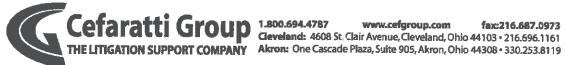
	Page 298		Page 300
	_		
1 2	charged with that you recall? A. You have to look at the	1 2	underage charges what other charges have you been have you faced?
3	public records, I really don't recall.	3	A. I guess that's it.
4	Q. I actually don't have to	4	Q. Were you convicted of the
5	look at them, I'm asking for your	5	charge relating to the underage
6	recollection.	6	circumstances?
l ž	A. Oh, I don't remember what	7	A. I haven't been convicted of
8	anything is. We're talking, what was it	8	anything, never.
9	there has been a few things. Oh,	9	Q. Well, you were actually
10	open container.	10	convicted of carrying a concealed weapon
111	Q. Anything else?	11	but you appealed that and they reversed
12	A. Let's see, underage	12	the conviction, correct?
13	something.	13	A. The law says direct appeal,
14	Q. You were under age or you	14	no conviction.
15	were with someone who was under age?	15	Q. You've never filed for
16	A. I wasn't with let's see,	16	bankruptcy protection, is that right?
17	possible.	17	A No.
18	Q. The latter, that you were	18	Q. In addition to the lawsuit
19	with someone under age?	19	you filed against the trooper you filed
20	A. Under the age of 21, I	20	two lawsuits against K-Mart, your former
21	believe so, yeah.	21	employer, right?
22	Q. This is related to drinking	22	A. I can't recall. It's
23	and alcohol?	23	possible. I believe one maybe, two or
24	A. Yeah, I wasn't drinking.	24	three. I can't recall. One, two or
25	Q. You were buying liquor for	25	three. Maybe four.
	Page 299		Page 301
1	somebody under the age of 21?	1	MR. ROSSI: Excuse me a second.
2	A. No.	2	(Discussion between witness and
3	Q. What is the relationship to	3	his counsel.)
4	underage?	4	
5	A. I have to see the document.	5	(Thereupon, Deposition
6	I think that's what I recall what the	6	Exhibit-47 was marked for
7	charges were.	7	purposes of identification.)
8	Q. So you were charged with a	8	O Hamilton was built to
9	crime but you don't recall what crime it was?	9 10	Q. Handing you what's been
11	A. It's in dispute.	11	marked Deposition Exhibit 47, it's a copy of an affidavit you filed in a
12	Q. Currently in dispute?	12	lawsuit against the trooper, case number
13	A. I didn't say that.	13	499 CV 1642, and turning to the second
14	Q. So I'm trying to understand	14	page of the document, is that your
15	your answer. You said it is in	15	signature, sir?
16	dispute, you didn't say it was in	16	A. Yes.
17	dispute. So my question is, is it	17	Q. And you were certifying under
18	currently in dispute?	18	penalty of perjury that the information
19	A. Not to my knowledge.	19	set forth in this affidavit is true and
20	Q. What state were you in with	20	correct?
21	regards to the underage charges?	21	A. Yes.
22	A. This state.	22	Q. Looking at paragraph 5, does
23	Q. It was in Ohio?	23	that refresh your recollection that your
	A Voc	24	third knife was concealed from view in a
24 25	A. Yes. Q. Other than open container and	25	closed compartment between bucket seats?



	D 000		-
	Page 302		Page 304
2	A. Okay, yeah.	1 2	in connection with a clogged sink at K-Mart?
3	(Thereupon, Deposition	3	A. Yeah.
4	Exhibit-48 was marked for	4	 Q. And what improper conduct did
5	purposes of identification.)	5	Mr. Wilson purportedly maliciously
6 7	O. Mr. Danel manuscrated as the	6	institute and maintain against you?
8	Q. Mr. Rossi represented you in a portion of that lawsuit, is that	7	A. You have to ask him, I can't
9	right?	9	recall. Q. Actually, I don't. This is
10	A. Yeah, Michael Rossi, Alan	10	your document that you drafted so what
111	Belkin, yes.	11	did you mean by, quote, improper
12	Q. Handing you what's been	12	conduct?
13	marked Deposition Exhibit 48, a copy of	13	A. Well, false, wrong,
14	one of the actions you filed against	14	wrongfully.
15	K-Mart, your former employer, case	15	 Q. And what conduct were you
16	number 01 CVF 282 in the Central	16	allegedly maliciously accused of?
17	District Court of Trumbull County, Ohio.	17	MR. ROSSI: Object, irrelevant.
18 19	This one is against Glen Wilson who was	18 19	Q. Well, certainly it was
20	your supervisor at K-Mart, is that right?	20	something you felt strongly about to file a complaint in court over so what
21	A. He wasn't my supervisor, no.	21	improper conduct were you
22	Q. So he was a supervisor at	22	MR. ROSSI: Objection,
23	K-Mart?	23	irrelevant. Go ahead and continue the
24	A. Yes.	24	deposition.
25	Q. Paragraph 4, "On October 19,	25	Q. What improper conduct were
	Page 303		Page 305
1	2000 on the occasion of an investigatory	1	you accused of that led you to file
2	interview conducted by K-Mart human	2	this complaint?
3	resource officials, the Defendant, Glen	3	A. A clogged sink.
4	Wilson, was identified as the	4	Q. So you just what, he
5 6	responsible party who maliciously instituted and maintained 'improper	5 6	accused you of clogging the sink? A. Yeah.
7	conduct' allegations against the	7	Q. With what?
8	Plaintiff without probable just cause	8	A. I don't know. He said food.
9	therefore."	9	Q. So a supervisor at K-Mart
10	You represented yourself at this	10	accused you of clogging a sink and you
11	point against K-Mart, is that right?	11	filed a lawsuit over it?
12	A. Yeah.	12	A. Yeah.
13	Q. And that's your signature on	13	Q. And you filed a lawsuit
14	the second page?	14	against Mr. Wilson specifically, not
15 16	A. Yes. Q. What investigatory interview	15 16	K-Mart Corporation in this particular instance, correct?
17	are you referring to in paragraph 4?	17	A. It appears so.
18	A. Investigatory interview	18	Q. And you in your demand
19	investigatory interview.	19	asserted compensatory damages in the sum
20	Q. What was the subject of the	20	of \$7,000, exemplary damages in the sum
21	investigatory interview that you	21	of \$7,000 as well as interest and other
22	participated in on October 19, 2000?	22	costs, correct?
23	A. Something about a clogged	23	A Yes.
24	sink.	24	Q. So you asserted at least a
25	Q. So you were being interviewed	25	\$14,000 recovery against an individual



	Page 306	Page 308				
1	who accused you of clogging a sink?	1	A. Correct.			
2	A. Okay. Fair enough.	2	 Q. You attended two years of 			
3	Q. Well, am I right?	3	college at Kent State about 20 years			
4	A. Yes.	4	ago?			
5	Q. Is that right?	5	A. Sounds right.			
6	A. Yeah.	6	 Q. You do not currently have a 			
7	 Q. Have you given testimony 	7	college degree?			
8	under oath at any other time other than	8	A. No.			
9	today?	9	 Q. What courses were you taking, 			
10	A. What do you mean? Define.	10	what course of study were you taking at			
11	Q. Have you been placed under	11	Kent State approximately 20 years ago?			
12	oath and given testimony at any other	12	A. Undeclared.			
13	time other than today?	13	Q. What type of courses were			
14	A. Probably.	14	you taking?			
15	Q. Probably?	15	A. Math, usual. I can't			
16	A. I would assume so, yeah.	16	remember all the courses.			
17	Q. I'm sorry, I couldn't hear	17	Q. All required courses?			
18	you.	18	 Something like that, yeah. 			
19	A. I would say yes.	19	 Q. Have you attended any formal 			
20	Q. What other situation were you	20	training or educational programs other			
21	placed under oath and given testimony?	21	than Kent State?			
22	A. I had a traffic ticket in	22	A. Not that I know of.			
23	93.	23	 Q. You recently applied for 			
24	Q. Any other times?	24	re-enrollment at Kent State?			
25	A. Possibly. I can't recall.	25	A. Yeah.			
	Page 307		Page 309			
1	Maybe at the Industrial Commission. I	1	Q. Have you started coursework			
2	really can't recall.	2	back up at Kent State?			
3	Q. The traffic ticket in 93,	3	A. No.			
4	since you said you were placed under	4	Q. Why not?			
5	oath and gave testimony, am I to assume	5	A. I don't know. No response.			
6	correctly that you contested the ticket	6	Q. So you submitted the			
7	and went to court	7	application for undergraduate			
8	A. Yes.	8	re-enrollment but did not hear anything			
9	Q and that's why you were	9	from Kent State?			
10	placed under oath?	10	A. Yeah.			
11	A Yes.	11	Q. Do you plan to pursue			
12	Q. What is your date of birth?	12	re-enrollment at Kent State?			
13	O Whore were you have?	13	A. If I can.			
14 15	Q. Where were you born?A. Ohio.	14	Q. What courses do you intend			
16	Q. Where in Ohio?	15 16	to take if you are re-enrolled at Kent			
17	A. Warren, Ohio.	16 17	State?			
18	Q. Where were you raised?	18	A. I have to sit down and look			
19	A. The same.	19	and pick a couple and decide.			
20	Q. You're not currently married,	20	Q. Do you intend to go full-time?			
21	correct?	21	A. Yeah, if I can.			
22	A. Correct.	22				
23	Q. Have you ever been married?	23	Q. Are you currently enrolled in any education or training program?			
24	A. No.	24	A. No.			
	Q. You have no children?	25	Q. Other than Kent State do you			
25						



	DEFORMATION OF HODERT AT OTTO				
	Page 310		Page 312		
1 1	have any plans to enroll in any	1	name?		
2	education or training program?	2	A. Rose Rudin.		
3	A. Depends upon any		Q. I'm sorry?		
4	opportunities that come up.		A. RUDIN.		
5	Q. Do you have a current	4 5	Q. Do you pay any rent living		
6	business license?	6	with your grandmother?		
7	A. Not that I know of.	7	A. I don't have any money right		
8	Q. Did you ever have a business	8	now to give any rent.		
9	license?	9	Q. Have you		
10	A. I can't recall.	10	MR. ROSSI: Say no.		
111	Q. You may have had a business	11	A. No, no.		
12	license?	12	Q. Where did you live prior to		
13	A. I don't think, but not that	13	1989 when you moved into the Jeanette		
14	I know of.	14	Drive address?		
15	Q. Did you have any business	15	A. With my parents.		
16	licenses in connection with your work as	16	Q. Had you completed high school		
17	a self employed contractor?	17	when you moved in with your grandmother?		
18	A. No.	18	A. Yes.		
19	Q. And you've never served in	19	Q. Why did you move out of your		
20	the military, is that right?	20	parents' house into your grandparents'		
21	A. That's correct.	21	house grandmother's house, excuse me?		
22	Q. Your current address is still	22	A. I think everybody moved in		
23	the 4143 Jeanette Drive, Warren, Ohio,	23	there at that time. I can't recall.		
24	44484 address?	24	think we all did. My parents sold the		
25	A. Yes.	25	house, something like that. Years, I		
	Page 311		Page 313		
1	Q. How long have you lived at	1	can't recall.		
2	that address?	2	Q. Have you ever experienced any		
3	A. I can't recall. Since high	3	difficulties receiving mail at the		
4	school.	4	Jeanette Drive address?		
5	Q. So since 1990?	5	A. Before before, yeah.		
6	A. 89, somewhere in there.	6	Q. Before what?		
7	Q. Is that the whose house	7	A. In the past, years ago.		
8	is on this actually, strike the	8	Q. How many years ago?		
9	question, please. Do you know, was that	9	A. I don't know, I wasn't		
10	house owned or rented?	10	paying attention. I remember before we		
11	A. It's got to be owned.	11	had some problems years ago but I think		
12	Q. Do you own the house?	12	there was kids in the neighborhood		
13	A. No.	13	messing with stuff. I can't remember		
14	Q. Whose name is on the title?	14	how many years.		
15	A. I don't know.	15	Q. Well, the next question I		
Lan	7 W . GOIT ET (1017)				
16	Q. Do you know whose name is on	16	was going to ask you is, do you know		
17		16 17	was going to ask you is, do you know why you were having difficulty receiving		
17 18	Q. Do you know whose name is on	ľ	was going to ask you is, do you know why you were having difficulty receiving mail at that address years ago?		
17 18 19	Q. Do you know whose name is on the mortgage?	17	why you were having difficulty receiving		
17 18 19 20	 Q. Do you know whose name is on the mortgage? A. I don't know. I don't think there's any mortgage. Q. Who lives there besides 	17 18	why you were having difficulty receiving mail at that address years ago?		
17 18 19 20 21	 Q. Do you know whose name is on the mortgage? A. I don't know. I don't think there's any mortgage. Q. Who lives there besides yourself, your grandmother? 	17 18 19 20 21	why you were having difficulty receiving mail at that address years ago? A. Rowdy kids, possibly. Q. Did you ever have any difficulty receiving phone messages left		
17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. Do you know whose name is on the mortgage? A. I don't know. I don't think there's any mortgage. Q. Who lives there besides yourself, your grandmother? A. Yeah.	17 18 19 20 21 22	why you were having difficulty receiving mail at that address years ago? A. Rowdy kids, possibly. Q. Did you ever have any		
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. Do you know whose name is on the mortgage? A. I don't know. I don't think there's any mortgage. Q. Who lives there besides yourself, your grandmother? A. Yeah. Q. Anyone else?	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	why you were having difficulty receiving mail at that address years ago? A. Rowdy kids, possibly. Q. Did you ever have any difficulty receiving phone messages left for you at the Jeanette Drive address? A. What do you mean?		
17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. Do you know whose name is on the mortgage? A. I don't know. I don't think there's any mortgage. Q. Who lives there besides yourself, your grandmother? A. Yeah.	17 18 19 20 21 22	why you were having difficulty receiving mail at that address years ago? A. Rowdy kids, possibly. Q. Did you ever have any difficulty receiving phone messages left for you at the Jeanette Drive address?		



	Page 314		Page 316		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	other day, did you get it, and you hadn't gotten it? A. Yeah, if my grandma erases a message or don't write it down, it's possible. She's 85. Q. Have you asked any current or former ABC employee if they would testify for you in this case? A. No. Q. Have you asked any current or former ABC employee if they would speak to your attorney in connection with this case? A. I think I sent a card to the union people. Other than that, no. Q. Is that to Justin that you sent the card? A. I believe it was. Q. And you asked Justin whether he would speak to Mr. Rossi? A. No. I just said I gave	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	him at a gas station. I can't remember. Q. How about Ryan, that was August 11, 2010? A. Yeah. Q. And Bill, when was that? A. Same. Q. August 11, 2010? A. Yeah. Q. And Tony was also August 11, 2010? A. Yeah. Q. And Tony was also August 11, 2010? A. Yeah. Yeah, Tony's mother passed away, I sent a card, I seen it in the paper. Other than that Q. Have you talked about your legal action against ABC with Kevin? A. Not that I'm aware of. Grievance stuff. Q. What grievance stuff did you speak with Kevin about? A. I can't remember. He asked		
22	A. No. I just said I gave him the card for communication purposes.	21 22	Ma. I can't remember. He asked me I can't remember who asked who or		
23	Q. You gave him Mr. Rossi's	23	how it came up but I said, well,		
24	card?	24	grievance, grievance, and it was short		
25	A. Yeah.	25	because he was at a gas station.		
	Page 315		Page 317		
1 2 3 4 5 6	Q. Do you know if Mr strike the question, please. Do you know if Justin ever contacted Mr. Rossi? A. I don't know, you'd have to ask him. Q. Has any current or former	1 2 3 4 5 6	Q. So the entire conversation was somebody saying grievance, grievance? A. I can't remember. I just I run into him on more than one occasion and it's always at a gas		
7 8	ABC employee volunteered to testify for you in this case?	7 8	station, different ones, just out of sheer coincidence. Same place, same		
9	A. Not that I know of, no.	9	time, here and there. I might have		
10	Q. Any current or former ABC	10	seen Rick Harvey somewhere one time too.		
11 12	employee volunteered to speak with your attorney?	11 -12	Other than that Q. Have you talked to Mr.		
13	A. Not that I know of, no.	13	Harvey about your lawsuit against ABC?		
14	Q. Have you communicated with	14	A. No, I just say, hey, what's		
15	any current or former ABC employee since	15	up.		
16 17	your September 2009 layoff other than	16 17	Q. Have you ever tape recorded		
18	those we've discussed today? A. Kevin, that's about it.	17 18	any phone calls with a current or former ABC employee?		
19	Then, let's see, Ryan, Bill DiPietro,	19	A. What do you mean?		
20	Tony Nicastro, that was August 11th,	20	Q. Have you ever tape recorded		
21	2010 at the plant.	21	any phone calls with a current or former		
22	Q. So you just said Kevin,	22	ABC employee?		
23 24	Ryan, Bill and Tony, were those communications all on August 11th, 2010?	23 24	A. I don't think so, no. Q. Have you ever tape recorded		
25	A. No, no. Kevin, I ran into	25	any conversation with a current or		



	Page 318		Page 320
1	former ABC employee?	1	A. Okay, yes.
2	A. No.	2	Q. In 2008 you had been laid
3	A. 110.	3	off in January of 08 and you were
4	(Thereupon, Deposition	4	recalled in March of 08 and then worked
5	Exhibit-49 was marked for	5	until January of 09 when you were laid
6	purposes of identification.)	6	off again, correct?
7		7	A. Yes.
8	Q. Deposition Exhibit 49, is	8	Q. And then in January of 09
9	this your application for re-enrollment	9	you were recalled in June of 09 and
10	at Kent State?	10	then you worked from June of 09 until
11	A. It appears to be. I don't	11	September of 09, correct?
12	know if there's any other parts but fair	12	 A. Sounds right, yeah.
13	enough, yeah.	13	
14	Q. And on the back, is that	14	(Thereupon, Deposition
15	your signature?	15	Exhibit-50 was marked for
16	A. Yeah.	16	purposes of identification.)
17	Q. And you signed this on or	17	O Chaudea variabelle bees
18 19	about April 5th, 2011? A. Yeah.	18 19	Q. Showing you what's been
20	Q. Do you agree that during	20	marked Deposition Exhibit 50, I really just want to have you tell me if that
21	your employment with ABC you never	21	is a true and accurate copy of your
22	worked 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a	22	2007 tax return that you submitted to
23	year?	23	the governments of the United States and
24	A. Excuse me, repeat.	24	of Ohio, respectively? Excuse me.
25	Q. Sure. Do you agree that	25	A. Appears to be.
	Page 319		Page 321
1	during your employment with ABC you	1	
2	never worked 40 hours a week, 52 weeks	2	(Thereupon, Deposition
3	a calendar year?	3	Exhibit-51 was marked for
4	A. I worked there every week	4	purposes of identification.)
5	is 40 hours a week.	5	
6	Q. You did not work 52 weeks in	6	Q. 51, same question but are
7	a calendar year, correct?	7	these the tax returns you submitted to
8	A. Continuous? Probably not,	8	the Federal government and State of Ohio
9	no.	9	for the tax year 2008?
10 11	Q. Specifically in 2007 you worked for approximately five months,	10	A. Appears to be, yeah.
12	correct?	11 12	Q. There was no W-2 nor form 1099 G attached to your 2008 tax return,
13	A. I'm not sure. If that's	13	do you have those records for 2008?
14	what it is, so be it.	14	A. I give you everything I had
15	Q. And in 2008 you worked	15	SO
16	approximately ten months, is that right?	16	
17	A. I'm not sure. If that's	17	(Thereupon, Deposition
18	what it is.	18	Exhibit-52 was marked for
19	Q. 2009 you worked approximately	19	purposes of identification.)
20	nine months?	20	
21	A. I don't know. If that's	21	Q. Showing you what's been
22	what it is, that's fine.	22	marked Deposition Exhibit 52, same
23	Q. Well, in 2007 you were hired	23	question, but are these your tax returns
24	in July of 07 and you were laid off in	24	submitted to the Federal government and
25	January of 08, correct?	25	the State of Ohio for tax year 2009?



	Page 322	Page 324				
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Appears to be. Q. I would like to go back to Deposition Exhibit 2, please. A. 2, got it. Q. What information do you believe that Miss Fisher has to support your claims in this case? A. Payroll. Q. With regards to what that supports your claims in this case? A. Payroll records. Q. I guess what about the payroll records that you believe Miss Fisher has knowledge of that supports the claims in your case? A. She's the administrator of I requested information or something on the one letter so she's the person in charge for contact for those records. Q. You're referring to, I think it was a 2008 correspondence that you sent to Miss Fisher asking her to check	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	MR. ROSSI: Colello. A. Yes. Q. Do you know whether you're planning on deposing Mr. Colello? A. It's up to my legal counsel, I trust him. Q. What information do you believe Mr. Colello has that would support your case such that you'd want to depose him? A. I don't know, we have to find out. Q. How about Mr. Averell, A V E R E L L? A. Same answer. I don't know, we have to find out. Q. Mr. Warner, what information do you believe Mr. Warner has to support your claims in this action? A. OSHA information. And other than that I don't know, I have to find out.			
22 23			out.			
24	A. They deal with health care	24	 Q. When you say OSHA information, are you referring to 			
25	benefits, union dues, that type stuff.	25	something other than what we've			
	Page 323		Page 325			
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. So what specific information does Miss Fisher have that you claim supports your case? A. I don't know, we have to find out. Q. How about Mr. Bobal, what specific information does Mr. Bobal have	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	discussed today? A. I don't know, we have to find out. Q. You mentioned someone named Janell at OSHA in the beginning of the deposition today? A. Yes.			
8	that you claim supports your case?	8	Q. What role did Janell play in			
9 10 11 12	A. I don't know, we have to find out. Q. How about Mr. Taraba, same question?	9 10 11 12	the OSHA investigation? A. Just discussions, she said they're going to inspect. Q. What year was Janeli involved			
13 14	A. Same answer. I don't know, we have to find out.	13 14	with regards to issues you raised to OSHA?			
15	Q. Mr. Stimmel?	15	A. August 20th, 2010.			
16 17	A. Same thing. I don't know, we have to find out.	16 17	Q. Is this an in-person conversation with Janell?			
18	Q. How about Mr. Colello,	18	A. Telephone.			
19 20	COLELLO? A. I don't know, we have to	19 20	Approximately how long was the telephone conversation?			
21	find out.	21	A. I can't recall.			
22 23	Q. Are you planning on deposing	22	Q. And did she call you or did			
24	Mr how do you pronounce his name? A. Who?	23 24	you call her? A. She called me.			
25	Q. Colello?	25	Q. And best as you can recall			



	Page 326	i	Page 328
1	please describe that conversation.	1	Q. What information does Mr.
2	A. Talked about the inspection	2	Rowbottom have that supports your claims
3	and went over the fork trucks, towmotors	3	in this case?
4	unsafe, no horn, no lights, oil leaking,	4	A. I don't know, we have to
5	fluid leaks, stall, stuff like that.	5	find out.
6	And I says, well, on the inspection	6	Q. How about Mr. Moyer?
7	excuse me, I says, since you're on the	7	A. I don't know, I have to find
8	inspection you might as well check the	8	out.
9	fire and tornado alarms on inspection.	9	Q. Mr. Cozart?
10	That's about it. It presents an	10	 A. I don't know, I have to find
11	opportunity.	11	out.
12	Q. And what did Miss do you	12	Q. Mr. DiPietro?
13	recall Janell's last name?	13	A. I don't know, I have to find
14	 A. I don't know, she said 	14	out.
15	Janell.	15	Q. Mr. Nicastro?
16	Q. What did Janell respond, if	16	A. Same.
17	anything, to your statement?	17	Q. Let's pull out Deposition
18	A. Just said that they're going	18	Exhibit 3, please.
19	to inspect.	19	A. Oh, there it is.
20	Q. And the fire and tornado	20	Q. By the way, did you file a
21 22	alarms that you just referenced, that	21	tax return for 2010?
23	does not form the basis for your claim against ABC, correct?	22 23	A. I believe so. Yes.
24	A. No. I just said with the	24	Q. We don't have a copy of
25	inspection, I says, you have an	25	that. Flipping to there's some handwritten, three handwritten, appears
-		20	
	Page 327		Page 329
1	opportunity to check that because I	1	to be, notebook pages towards the end of
2	don't remember us having any fire drills	2	Deposition Exhibit 3.
3	or tornado drills as long as I've been	3	A. Okay. You said three pages
4 5	there.	4	at the end?
6	Q. You said the conversation you had with Mr. Warner, that was August 26,	5 6	Q. They look like this, would
7	2010?	7	be your handwritten notes? A. Okay, yes.
8	A. Yes.	8	Q. I think there's three pages?
9	Q. Did you have any other	9	A. Okay.
10	telephone conversations with Mr. Warner	10	Q. Do these three pages
11	other than that August 26, 2010	11	represent all of the employers with whom
12	conversation?	12	you have sought employment since being
13	A. That's it.	13	laid off from ABC Company?
14	 Q. Have you told me everything 	14	A. As of what date?
15	that you and Mr. Warner talked about	15	Q. Whenever you started looking.
16	during the August 26, 2010 conversation?	16	A. I got a lot more.
17	A. Yeah, that covered it.	17	Q. Do you have any records
18	Q. Flipping to the last page of	18	pertaining to your job search efforts
19 20	Deposition Exhibit 2, there are some	19	other than these three pages?
21	additional individuals identified as having information relating to your	20 21	A. I should have, yeah.
22	claims in this case. And you list Mr.	22	Q. What other type of job
23	Rowbottom, Mr. Moyer, Mr. Cozart, Mr.	23	search records do you have? A. Just just like this.
24	DiPietro and Mr. Nicastro?	24	Q. So more handwritten pages of
25	A. Yes.	25	companies that you may have contacted
	2 m 1 W 9 1		_ companies that you may have contacted



Page 330			Page 332		
1	regarding employment?	1	A. There are so many companies,		
2	A. Yeah. I got maybe a	2	including these, yes.		
3	computer printout, postcards.	3 4	Q. In what way did you signal		
4			your interest to the companies that you		
5 6	printout to your attorney?	5 6	have listed in Deposition Exhibit 3?		
7	A. Yeah, he should have them.Q. And the postcards to your	7	A. Regular mail.		
8	attorney?	8	Q. Is that by submitting an application, resume?		
9	A. I should have a copy of it.	9	A. Resume.		
10	Q. You should or he should?	10	Q. And how did you find the		
111	A. Both of you guys should,	111	companies that you've listed in		
12	everybody should.	12	Deposition Exhibit 3?		
13	MR. ROSSI: I don't have anything	13	A. Everywhere, computer, books,		
14	you don't have. Don't start that again.	14	just whatever I found.		
15	Q. Well, I don't have the 2010	15	Q. Did you actually submit		
16	tax returns. Since you asked the	16	applications for any of these companies		
17	question, when did you start your	17	listed in Deposition Exhibit 3?		
18	efforts to secure new employment?	18	A. No, resume.		
19	A. I can't recall.	19	Q. Were you responding to		
20	Q. Approximate month and year?	20	solicitations for resumes or		
21	 A. I've always been looking for 	21	applications to any of these companies		
22	employment.	22	listed in Deposition Exhibit 3?		
23	Q. Even while you were working	23	 A. Say that again, please. 		
24	for ABC?	24	Q. Were you responding to		
25	A. Yeah, always. Even in	25	solicitations for applications or		
1	Page 331	1			
Į.	rage 331		Page 333		
1	•	1	•		
2	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there.	2	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition		
2 3	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively	-	resumes as it relates to any of these		
2 3 4	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively searching for employment after your	2 3 4	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition		
2 3 4 5	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively searching for employment after your September of 09 layoff?	2 3 4 5	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition Exhibit 3 or were you cold calling, in other words? A. Yeah, not these, no. Just		
2 3 4 5 6	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively searching for employment after your September of 09 layoff? A. I'm always actively searching	2 3 4 5 6	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition Exhibit 3 or were you cold calling, in other words? A. Yeah, not these, no. Just sending them out.		
2 3 4 5 6 7	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively searching for employment after your September of 09 layoff? A. I'm always actively searching for employment so every time all the	2 3 4 5 6 7	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition Exhibit 3 or were you cold calling, in other words? A. Yeah, not these, no. Just sending them out. Q. So you didn't know one way		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively searching for employment after your September of 09 layoff? A. I'm always actively searching for employment so every time all the time, continuing.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition Exhibit 3 or were you cold calling, in other words? A. Yeah, not these, no. Just sending them out. Q. So you didn't know one way or the other whether these companies		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	between layoffs, I always look, you always see what's out there. Q. When were you actively searching for employment after your September of 09 layoff? A. I'm always actively searching for employment so every time all the time, continuing. Q. These companies that you've	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	resumes as it relates to any of these companies you've listed in Deposition Exhibit 3 or were you cold calling, in other words? A. Yeah, not these, no. Just sending them out. Q. So you didn't know one way or the other whether these companies were hiring?		
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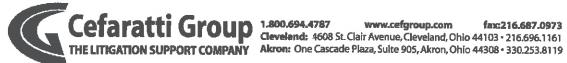
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	DEPOSITION OF ROBERT A. POTTS				
	Page 334		Page 336		
1	A. I don't remember. PSK, TSK,	1	something, share information.		
2	can't recall. All I remember it was	2	Q. On average then how often or		
3	in Brookfield, that's all I can		how many hours a week would you say		
4	remember, Brookfield, Ohio.		you're looking for employment?		
5			A. It's hard to say, it varies.		
6	a week do you spend looking for	5	Q. An hour a week?		
7	employment?	7	A. Probably longer than that.		
8	A. Depends on the time I have	8	Q. Two hours a week?		
9	available.	9	A. Sometimes a day I'm looking		
10	Q. Well, when you say the time	10	for two hours.		
111	you have available, what is filling your	11	Q. So I understand it's an		
12	time such that you may not have time to	12	average, how many hours a week are you		
13	look for employment?	13	searching for employment?		
14	A. I might be on the computer	14	A. I guess you could say an		
15	for hours, maybe minutes, just depends.	15	hour a day.		
16	Q. So what is filling your time	16	Q. Is that just Monday through		
17	that you may only have a few minutes to	17	Friday?		
18	look for employment?	18	A. Yeah, Monday through Friday.		
19	A. It varies, each day is	19	A Sunday, Saturday, Sundays, sometimes		
20	different.	20	Saturday, sometimes. Usually never on a		
21	Q. So what is filling your time	21	Sunday, sometimes. Ostially never on a		
22	such that you only have a few minutes	22	•		
23	to search for employment on some days?	23	Q. So on average you're looking		
24	A. What do you mean filling	24	for new employment about five hours a week on average?		
25	time?	25	A. That will work. I look, at		
20		23			
	Page 335		Page 337		
1	Q. What are you doing other	1	least.		
2	than looking for work?	2	Q. Is there any period of time		
3	A. Available for computers.	3	since October 15, 2010 that you've		
4	Q. I'm sorry?	4	suspended your efforts to look for a		
5	A. The availabilities of	5	job?		
6	computers and other resources, libraries	6	A. I'm always looking, no.		
7	or drive around, just depends.	7	Q. Has there been any period of		
8	Q. When you say availability for	8	time since October 15, 2010 that you		
9	computers, is that because you don't	9	have been unable to work for any reason?		
10	have a computer at your house?	10	A. None whatsoever.		
11	A. Yeah, I don't have a	11	Q. Have you been self employed		
12	computer, right.	12	at any time since September of 09?		
13	Q. So you go to the library?	13	A. No.		
14	A. Yeah.	14	Q. Do you have health insurance		
15	Q. Anywhere else you go to use	15	now?		
16	the computer?	16	A. What do you mean?		
17	A. That's it, libraries.	17	Q. Well, I think you said you		
18	Q. So still trying to	18	elected COBRA for dental only, correct?		
19	understand, are you on the computer when	19	A. That's correct.		
20	the library is open?	20	Q. So do you have medical		
21	A. I use computers wherever I'm	21	insurance now?		
22	at, my friends, my sister, libraries.	22	A. No.		
23	don't limit it to anything. Whatever,	23	Q. The Deposition Exhibit Number		
24	if somebody got a computer out, hey, let	24	4, the portion that contains your		
		25	handwritten notes, I think it's the		
25	me check it out. If they see	1ツラ	Dandrilled Dolog I think it's too		



	Page 338		Page 340	
1	second document in the clipped packet.	1	A. Today.	
2	A. This is 3, close here, 2, 1,	2	Q. So no other time other than	
3	1, 2, 3.	3	today did you meet with Mr. Rossi to	
4	MR. ROSSI: Here, use mine.	4	prepare for your deposition?	
5	A. Oh, here it is.	5	A. This is it.	
6	MR. ROSSI: How much longer do	6	Q. Approximately how long did	
7	you have?	7	you spend with Mr. Rossi before your	
8	MS. MCARDLE: Not much.	8	deposition?	
9	MR. ROSSI: What does that mean	9	A. How long was the drive?	
10	quantitatively speaking?	10	Q. About 40 minutes?	
11	MS. MCARDLE: Probably about 15	11	A. That's it.	
12	minutes, how's that, but I'm not going	12	Q. And during that time you	
13	to promise in case something comes up.	13	didn't review any documentation	
14	MR. ROSSI: That's okay.	14	A. No.	
15	Q. Mr. Potts, in the handwritten	15	Q to prepare? Other than	
16	notes that you wrote on the one portion	16	what we've talked about today is there	
17	of Deposition Exhibit 4, I think it's	17	any other fact on which you rely to	
18	the second clipped packet.	18	support your whistleblower claim?	
19	A. Okay.	19	A. What do you mean?	
20	Q. In writing those notes you	20	Q. Other than what we've talked	
21	were intending to impart true and	21	about today	
22 23	accurate information to the reader, is	22	A. This is it, everything.	
24	that?	23 24	Q. You told me everything that	
25	A. To what reader, what do you	24 25	supports your whistleblower claim?	
20		23	A. Yeah, you got everything.	
	Page 339		Page 341	
1	Q. To whoever is reading them.	1	Q. You told me everything that	
2	A. Whoever is reading what?	2	supports your COBRA notice claim?	
3	Q. It's a pretty basic question.	3	A. You got everything I got.	
4	A. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, sure.	4	Q. Looking back on things is	
5	Q. You were intending to provide	5	there anything you would have done	
6	honest answers, correct?	6	different during your employment with	
7	A. Yeah.	7	ABC?	
8 9	Q. So, for example, page 2,	8	MR. ROSSI: Objection, relevance.	
10	number 7, you wrote oral notice in-house	9	Go ahead.	
111	written report, none in my care? A. Yeah.	10 11	A. It's hard to say, you know,	
12	Q. You were intending to impart	12	after the fact of everything you always think what if, what if, what if, you	
13	that you had no copies of any in-house	13	know. But what if, you can't change	
14	written report, correct?	14	nothing, you can't you know,	
15	A. Wrote them down and that's	15	tomorrow, the next day, driving home, I	
16	that.	16	should have turned left, should have	
17	Q. Did you review any documents	17	turned right, can't take it back.	
18	in preparation for your deposition	18	Q. Well, I understand you can't	
19	today?	19	take it back but my question is, looking	
20	A. No.	20	back on things is there anything you	
21	Q. Did you meet with your	21	would have done differently during your	
22	attorney in preparation for your	22	employment with ABC?	
23	deposition today?	23	A. Probably would be.	
24	A. Today.	24	Q. What would you have done	
25	Q. I'm sorry?	25	differently?	



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Everything. Q. Such as what? A. Depends on everything, would do things differently. Q. I'm sorry? A. Depending on any certain situation, anything, knowing now, experiencing now, obviously if I study this material, you know, I learned this studying this, reading the papers after the fact, of course I would do things different after reading this. Q. And can you identify for me something that you said of course you would do differently after reading this? A. No, just generalities. Q. Looking back on things is there anything you would have done differently during the time period of September of 09 through October 15th of 2010? A. Probably. Q. Such as what? A. I don't know.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	just I'd go do something different. MS. MCARDLE: No further questions. MR. ROSSI: Waive signature.		
25	Q. Well, you have a feeling	25			
1	Page 343		Page 345		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	that you would have done something differently either during your employment or during that time period pust said, so there must be something prompting that feeling. What is prompting that feeling that you would have done— A. Be friends— Q. Hold on—something differently? Go ahead. I have to finish my question, that was one of the ground rules. A. Sure, sure, sure, I'm sorry. This is kind of new to me or whatever, so I'd probably become friends with the managers. Q. Anything else? A. Buy them dinners like the other people do, participate in their bowlings and other social events. Q. Do you feel that the fact you didn't participate somehow affected your employment? A. I didn't say that. I said	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	State of Ohio) SS.: County of Cuyahoga.) I, Steven H. Henschel, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within named witness, was duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by the witness was by me reduced to stenotypy in the presence of said witness; afterwards transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony so given by the witness. I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified. I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney for either party, or otherwise interested in		



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28 (D). IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day of , 2011. Steven H. Henschel, Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio	
17	Ž.	
18	My commission expires April 22, 2013.	
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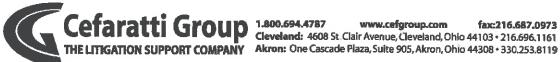


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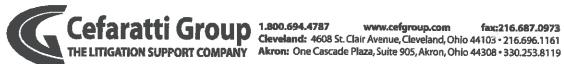
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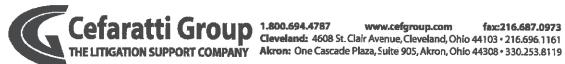
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Robert Potts

4143 Jeanette Drive Warren, Ohio 44484 (330) 856-6103

October 15, 2010

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group

Attn: MICHAEL BOBAL

14301 Industrial Avenue North
Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

RE: <u>Permanent Layoffs</u>

Dear Michael:

As you know, I have been provided with pertinent information regarding a notice of a permanent layoff effective 10/15/2010.

As such, at this time, I hereby respectfully make a request for confirmation of my rank on the plant wide seniority list or Company records. I remember or recall about six or seven employees having less seniority than me on the Company's plant wide seniority list, and any cause and effect of the permanent layoff would, most logically result in retroactively returning me to my warehouse position with all seniority rights, benefits, and union privileges by way of applying plant wide seniority for purpose of a permanent layoff, as length of service shall be any determining factor.

WHEREFORE, I await any response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Potts

EXHIBIT 400 OWNER







14301 Industrial Avenue North Maple Holghts, OH 44137.

November 10, 2010

VIA CERTIFIED/REGISTERED MAIL

Robert Potts 4143 Jeanette Dr. Warren, Oh 44484

Dear Mr. Potts,

As of the writing of this letter neither the Company nor your Union (Local 377) has heard your decision regarding the job offer to be a Merchandiser. This offer coincides with your contractual rights with respect to your permanent layoff as a Warehouse Worker.

The grievance answer on grievance #11823 sent to you September 30, 2010 gave you the fifteen (15) day review period to answer us if you wished the available Merchandiser job. It was noted in that same answer that your layoff would be considered permanent effective October 15, 2010.

In a separate meeting with Local 377 on October 21, that we had expected you to attend, your Union notified us (on the day of the meeting) that you were unavailable. The Company, after being told that you wouldn't be available until after October 26, granted an extension through November 5 for you to make a decision on the Merchandiser job opportunity. Still no decision has been communicated back to either the Company or the Union.

This letter spells out your last chance to accept or reject the job offer to be a Merchandiser for our Company. If you wish to accept the offer, you need to contact your Union representatives before the end of business on November 19, 2010. They will in turn contact the Company so the necessary final steps confirming your ability to do the job can be completed.

If you reject this job offer (or fail to respond to the job offer), the Company will terminate your employment, effective November 25, 2010 in accordance with Article 14 (Seniority) section 7, point D of our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Questions about this letter, and/or your decision to return can be directed to your Union.

Sincerely.

Michael L. Bobal

Associate HR Manager

Cc: Jeff Karla, Regional HR Director

Joel LaMantia, Youngstown Branch Mgr

Teamsters Local 377

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT A. POTTS

CASE NO. 4:11-CV-0149-KSM JUDGE KENNETH A. McHARGH

Plaintiff

VS.

DEPOSITION OF MICHAEL BOBAL

AMERICAN BOTTLING CO.)
dba DR. PEPPER
SNAPPLE GROUP, aka
DR. PEPPER/SEVEN UP,
INC., fka CADBURY
SCHWEPPES BOTTLING
GROUP, INC.

Defendants

Deposition taken before me, Debbra S.

Sabat, Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, on the 29th day of July, 2011, at 10:00 AM, pursuant to agreement between counsel, taken at the law office of Attorney Michael D. Rossi, Guarnieri & Secrest, 151 East Market Street, Warren, Ohio 44481, to be used in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the agreement of the parties in the aforesaid cause of action pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division.

25

Q.

Where?

Page 5 PROCEEDINGS 1 2 MICHAEL BOBAL having been duly sworn according to law, on his 3 oath, testified as follows: 4 5 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. ROSSI 6 7 Q. Your name and address, please? 8 A. Michael Lawrence Bobal, my address, 5800 Laurent Drive, Apartment 610, Parma 9 10 Ohio, 44129. 11 Q 5800 Laurent? A. L-A-U-R-E-N-T. 12 13 Q. Date of birth? 14 Q. Are you from the Cleveland area? 15 I am. 16 Α. 17 Q. Did you graduate high school in Cleveland? A. Yes, I did. 18 Which high school? 19 Q. 20 Cleveland St. Ignatius Α. What year? 21 Q. 188. 22 Α. Did you attend college? 23 Q. 24 A. I did.

		Page 54			Page 56
1	0.	You chose to do that once in a while?	1	0	Joel Lamantia?
2	Ψ.	MS. BENTLEY: Objection.	2		At that point Joel Lamantia was becoming
3	O.	As he probably did?	3	1 4,	the branch manager of the Youngstown
4	٧.	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form.	4		branch.
5	A.	Uh-huh.	5	0	You state under the first bullet: "This
6		That's a yes?	6	ζ.	extension stems from the cooperative
7	-	I would say yes.	7		nature we have shared on various
8		Where did you get that sandbox business?	8		other issues over the past few
9	٧.	That's a good one. I'll have to	9		months." What are those other
10		remember that.	10		issues?
īi		If we recall one of the	11	Δ	The first issue that comes to my mind is
12		exhibits, which would be a notice	12	2 3.	the contract negotiation and
13		from OSHA, and if that were dated	13		resolution of a new contract in early
14		August 20, 2010; setting apart	14		2010. I want to say after that there
15		Mr. Potts, did you become aware of	15		was another issue that had come up
16		any safety violations or safety	16		dealing with I want to say dealing
17		accusations, allegations regarding	17		with the setup of merchandising
18		the tow motors prior to that date?	18		routes that were being discussed at
19		MS. BENTLEY: Objection to the	19		the contract negotiation. And I
20	for	m of the question and overbroad.	20		think the last item was dealing with
21		I don't recall being made aware of any	21		a driver related issue, as someone
22	<i>1</i> 1.	allegations of safety issues outside	22		was off on disability and we were
23		of the OSHA regulations. To expand	23		trying to get information to figure
24		further, any time there would be, if	24		out what was going to be happening.
25		I became aware of anything, I would	25	O.	Take a look at E. We'll talk about E and
= -		Page 55	23	<u> </u>	
1					Page 57
1 2		contact Derrick Bogaard in our	1 2		F together. Do you know whether
2		environmental health and safety	2		either of these well, first of
3		department and I would contact our	3		all, can you tell me what they are?
4	0	fleet manager. Exhibit D.	4		What are these E and F?
5	Q.		5	A.	These are letters that I wrote to
6	Α.		6		Mr. Potts first in November and then
7 8	Q.	Can you identify that for us, please? That is an e-mail I sent to Justin Averell	7	0	again in December.
I -	A.	over at Local 377 copying Jeff Karla,	8	Ų.	What's the import of each?
9 10			9 10	C-	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form. ahead.
11	0	Gib Tecca, and Joel Lamantia. Karla, Tecca and Lamantia, what do these	11		
12	Q.	fellows have in common that would	12	A.	I would need a moment to review each
13		cause you to copy them in?	13	0	one
14			14	•	Sure.
15	of f	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form he question. Assumes facts. Go ahead.	15	A.	so I can speak to the import of that letter.
16		They would have positions of either	16	(OE	F THE RECORD)
17	A.	management related to the Youngstown	17	•	,
18		branch or oversight of that branch or	18	Ų.	Have you familiarized yourself with E and F yet?
19		from an HR capacity.	19	٨	I have.
20	0	Who is Jeff Karla?	20		What are they?
21		Jeff Karla was my boss at that point. He	21		These are letters that I authored to
22	Λ.	has since retired.	22	A.	Mr. Potts. E is a letter that I
4.1.			23		
	\cap				
23	-	Who is Gib Tecca?			authored in November of 2010,
	-	Gib Tecca, area director, manager within the company.	24 25		basically still trying to get an answer from the letter of

		_	
	Page 58		Page 60
1	September 30. And F is a letter in	1	were said during that meeting. Is
2	December basically stating, hey,	2	there something in particular?
3	since we haven't heard from you, this	3	Q. Yeah, when you declined to shake his hand.
4	is the company's position.	4	I'm not interested in the whole
5	Q. The November letter says via	5	meeting.
6	certified/registered mail, and	6	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form
7	December it says via certified mail.	7	and relevance.
8	Am I to read anything into that?	8	A. I think I made a comment there about a
9	A. I think we wanted to try to send I	9	harassment claim that was filed
10	think we sent the November letter	10	against Mr. Potts, or a comment of I
11	registered, as we were attempting to	11	feel like I'm being harassed by this
12	make sure that he got it. There had	12	person.
13	been some other items that were sent	13	Q. What did you say?
14	that came back non-claimed, not	14	A. I said something along the lines of
15	opened, and we were trying to do	15	dealing with a harassment claim
16	everything we could from our power to	16	because of you.
17	get the item communicated.	17	Q. Which harassment claim?
18	Q. If you were doing everything in your power	18	A. There was an individual in the office that
19	to get the item communicated,	19	did not want to, for lack of a better
20	wouldn't you send it out ordinary	20	term, deal with Mr. Potts anymore
21	mail when these came back?	21	because she was feeling harassed. I
22	A. I believe we actually sent both ordinary	22	investigated, went through I did
23	and	23	not need to talk to Mr. Potts because
24	Q. Do you really?	24	their interaction was so limited,
25	MS. BENTLEY: You have to say	25	didn't need to do anything further.
	Page 59		Page 61
1	yes or no.	1	There was no formal charge brought
2	A. Yes, I have done that before. I want to	2	against him. The fact that I had to
3	say I did that with Mr. Potts.	3	deal with something is annoying
4	Q. What do you understand registered mail to	4	enough when you have 450 people that
5	mean?	5	you are trying to work with.
6	A. Actually I had a little bit of learning	6	MR. ROSSI: That's all I have.
7	experience in the case with	7	Thank you.
8	registered. We were trying to track	8	MS. BENTLEY: No questions.
9	the letter to see where it was at.	9	We'll review and sign.
10	Mistakenly we thought with registered	10	(WHEREUPON THE DEPOSITION OF MICHAEL BOBAL WAS
11	we would be able to get a day by day	11	CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 PM AND IT WAS
12	update as to where it stood, but it's	12	AGREED BY AND BETWEEN COUNSEL AND THE PARTIES
13	not the case.	13	THAT THE DEPONENT WILL READ AND SIGN THE
14	Q. Is that why we abandoned it in December?	14	TRANSCRIPT OF SAID DEPOSITION)
15	A. Pretty much.	15	
16	(OFF THE RECORD)	16	
17	Q. The occasion of the September 14 meeting,	17	
18	do you recall declining to shake his	18	
19	hand?	19	
20	A. I do.	20	
21	Q. Do you recall saying something in	21	
22	connection with that declination?	22	
23	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form	23	
24	and relevance. Go ahead.	24	ļ
25	A. I recall a number of different things that	25	





Mailing Address
4143 Jeanette Drive
Warren, Ohio 44484

Telephone Contact (330) 856-6103

John Lesicko
And
Local Executive Board
c/o Recording Secretary
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 377
1223 Teamster Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44502

John Lesicko/Local Executive Board:

I hereby timely file charges against Business Representative Justin Averell pursuant to section 1 (a),(b) of Article XIX, Trials and Appeals, of the IBT Constitution adopted by the 27th International Convention on June 26-30, 2006 for violations subject to discipline under the Constitution or Bylaws of the Union.

As cause, Justin Averell violated his oath of office by failing to perform his duties as a Business Representative, failing to act solely in the interest of this grievant, and refusing to protect my interest in all dealings with my Employer by way of refusing to process my grievance # 11824 and refusing to withdraw my defective grievance # 11823 as promised in his correspondence dated 10/12/2010, served via USPS Certified Mail Article # 7010-0290-0003-6116-9733; defer to attached copies as exhibited.

In conclusion, Justin Averell breached his oath of office.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed Date

Date







December 13, 2010

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Robert Potts 4143 Jeanette Dr. Warren, Oh 44484

Dear Mr. Potts,

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT
(Come size Mail Coly, No Instrumes Coverings Provided)

For this ery information of cur website at even and come

OFFICIAL USE

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As you know, on September 30, 2010, the Company made you a written job offer for a Merchandiser position in our Youngstown facility. At that time, the Company requested you to indicate your acceptance of this job offer by October 15, 2010, otherwise the Company would need to terminate your employment. You did not respond to the Company's September 30,

Instead of terminating your employment at that time, on October 14 the Company gave you additional time to accept the job offer and arranged a meeting for October 21, 2010 to discuss this matter with you in the presence of your Union (Local 377). You did not attend this meeting. Thus, on October 21, the Company again extended the time until November 5, 2010 for you to consider accepting the Company's job offer. Again, you failed to respond. However, the Company did not terminate your employment at that time.

On November 10, 2010, the Company sent additional correspondence to you providing yet another opportunity to consider and accept the Company's job offer. At that time, the Company also notified you that your failure to do so by November 19, 2010 would result in the termination of your employment. Additionally Regional HR Director, Jeff Karla, tried to reach you by telephone on multiple occasions before the final November 19 deadline. Again, you failed to respond to the Company's job offer.

Due to your continued lack of response and consistent with the Company's September 30, October 14 and October 21, and November 10, 2010 correspondence, the Company has terminated your employment, effective December 1, 2010 in accordance with Article 14 (Seniority) section 7, point D of our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

We wish you well in your next endeavor.

Sincerely.

Michael L. Bobal

Associate HR Manager

Michael & Bobal

Cc: Jeff Karla, Regional HR Director

Joel LaMantia, Youngstown Branch Mgr

Teamsters Local 377

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT A. POTTS) CASE NO. 4:11-CV-0149-KSM) JUDGE KENNETH A. McHARGH Plaintiff DEPOSITION OF) vs. MICHAEL BOBAL AMERICAN BOTTLING CO.) dba DR. PEPPER SNAPPLE GROUP, aka DR. PEPPER/SEVEN UP,) INC., fka CADBURY SCHWEPPES BOTTLING GROUP, INC. Defendants

Deposition taken before me, Debbra S.

Sabat, Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, on the 29th day of July, 2011, at 10:00 AM, pursuant to agreement between counsel, taken at the law office of Attorney Michael D. Rossi, Guarnieri & Secrest, 151 East Market Street, Warren, Ohio 44481, to be used in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the agreement of the parties in the aforesaid cause of action pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division.

25

Q.

Where?

Page 5 PROCEEDINGS 1 2 MICHAEL BOBAL having been duly sworn according to law, on his 3 oath, testified as follows: 4 5 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. ROSSI 6 7 Q. Your name and address, please? 8 A. Michael Lawrence Bobal, my address, 5800 Laurent Drive, Apartment 610, Parma 9 10 Ohio, 44129 11 Q: 5800 Laurent? A. L-A-U-R-E-N-T. 12 Q. Date of birth? 13 14 Are you from the Cleveland area? Q. 15 I am. 16 Α. 17 Q. Did you graduate high school in Cleveland? A. Yes, I did. 18 Which high school? 19 Q. 20 Cleveland St. Ignatius Α. 21 What year? Q. 22 Α. '88. Did you attend college? 23 Q. 24 A. I did.

			Т	-	
		Page 54	1		Page 5
1	Q.	You chose to do that once in a while?	1	. Ç	Q. Joel Lamantia?
2		MS. BENTLEY: Objection.	2		A. At that point Joel Lamantia was becoming
3	Q.	As he probably did?	3		the branch manager of the Youngstown
4		MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form.	4	:	branch.
5	A.	Uh-huh.	5	Ç	You state under the first bullet: "This
6	Q.	That's a yes?	6	;	extension stems from the cooperative
7	A.	I would say yes.	7	,	nature we have shared on various
8	Q.		8		other issues over the past few
9		That's a good one. I'll have to	9		months." What are those other
μо		remember that.	10		issues?
11		If we recall one of the	11	. A	A. The first issue that comes to my mind is
12		exhibits, which would be a notice	12		the contract negotiation and
13		from OSHA, and if that were dated	13		resolution of a new contract in early
14		August 20, 2010; setting apart	14		2010. I want to say after that there
15		Mr. Potts, did you become aware of	15		was another issue that had come up
16		any safety violations or safety	16		dealing with I want to say dealing
17		accusations, allegations regarding	17		with the setup of merchandising
18		the tow motors prior to that date?	18		routes that were being discussed at
19		MS. BENTLEY: Objection to the	19		the contract negotiation. And I
20	for	m of the question and overbroad.	20		think the last item was dealing with
21		I don't recall being made aware of any	21		a driver related issue, as someone
22		allegations of safety issues outside	22		was off on disability and we were
23		of the OSHA regulations. To expand	23		trying to get information to figure
24		further, any time there would be, if	24		out what was going to be happening.
25		I became aware of anything, I would	25		
		Page 55			Page 5
,					
1		contact Derrick Bogaard in our	1 2		F together. Do you know whether
2		environmental health and safety	2		either of these well, first of
3		department and I would contact our	3		all, can you tell me what they are?
4	^	fleet manager.	4		What are these E and F?
5	Q.		5	А	These are letters that I wrote to
6	Α.	Okay.	6		Mr. Potts first in November and then
7	Q.		7	_	again in December.
8	A.	That is an e-mail I sent to Justin Averell	8	Q). What's the import of each?
9		over at Local 377 copying Jeff Karla,	9	_	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form.
10	0	Gib Tecca, and Joel Lamantia.	10		o ahead.
11	Ų.	Karla, Tecca and Lamantia, what do these	11	A	. I would need a moment to review each
12		fellows have in common that would	12	_	one
13		cause you to copy them in?	13). Sure.
14	. 6.6	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form	14	A	
15		he question. Assumes facts. Go ahead.	15	10	letter.
16	A.	They would have positions of either	16		OFF THE RECORD)
17		management related to the Youngstown	17	Q	Have you familiarized yourself with E and
18		branch or oversight of that branch or	18		F yet?
19	_	from an HR capacity.	19		. I have.
20	-	Who is Jeff Karla?	20	Q.	
21	A.	Jeff Karla was my boss at that point. He	21	A	
22	_	has since retired.	22		Mr. Potts. E is a letter that I
23	-	Who is Gib Tecca?	23		authored in November of 2010,
24	A.	Gib Tecca, area director, manager within	24		basically still trying to get an
25		the company.	25		answer from the letter of

		_	
	Page 58		Page 60
1	September 30. And F is a letter in	1	were said during that meeting. Is
2	December basically stating, hey,	2	there something in particular?
3	since we haven't heard from you, this	3	Q. Yeah, when you declined to shake his hand.
4	is the company's position.	4	I'm not interested in the whole
5	Q. The November letter says via	5	meeting.
6	certified/registered mail, and	6	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form
7	December it says via certified mail.	7	and relevance.
8	Am I to read anything into that?	8	A. I think I made a comment there about a
9	A. I think we wanted to try to send I	9	harassment claim that was filed
10	think we sent the November letter	10	against Mr. Potts, or a comment of I
11	registered, as we were attempting to	11	feel like I'm being harassed by this
12	make sure that he got it. There had	12	person.
13	been some other items that were sent	13	Q. What did you say?
14	that came back non-claimed, not	14	A. I said something along the lines of
15	opened, and we were trying to do	15	dealing with a harassment claim
16	everything we could from our power to	16	because of you.
17	get the item communicated.	17	Q. Which harassment claim?
18	Q. If you were doing everything in your power	18	A. There was an individual in the office that
19	to get the item communicated,	19	did not want to, for lack of a better
20	wouldn't you send it out ordinary	20	term, deal with Mr. Potts anymore
21	mail when these came back?	21	because she was feeling harassed. I
22	A. I believe we actually sent both ordinary	22	investigated, went through I did
23	and	23	not need to talk to Mr. Potts because
24	Q. Do you really?	24	their interaction was so limited,
25	MS. BENTLEY: You have to say	25	didn't need to do anything further.
	Page 59		Page 61
1	yes or no.	1	There was no formal charge brought
2	A. Yes, I have done that before. I want to	2	against him. The fact that I had to
3	say I did that with Mr. Potts.	3	deal with something is annoying
4	Q. What do you understand registered mail to	4	enough when you have 450 people that
5	mean?	5	you are trying to work with.
6	A. Actually I had a little bit of learning	6	MR. ROSSI: That's all I have.
7	experience in the case with	7	Thank you.
8	registered. We were trying to track	8	MS. BENTLEY: No questions.
9	the letter to see where it was at.	9	We'll review and sign.
10	Mistakenly we thought with registered	10	(WHEREUPON THE DEPOSITION OF MICHAEL BOBAL WAS
11	we would be able to get a day by day	11	CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 PM AND IT WAS
12	update as to where it stood, but it's	12	AGREED BY AND BETWEEN COUNSEL AND THE PARTIES
13	not the case.	13	THAT THE DEPONENT WILL READ AND SIGN THE
14	Q. Is that why we abandoned it in December?	14	TRANSCRIPT OF SAID DEPOSITION)
15	A. Pretty much.	15	,,
16	(OFF THE RECORD)	16	
17	Q. The occasion of the September 14 meeting,	17	
18	do you recall declining to shake his	18	
19	hand?	19	
20	A. I do.	20	
21	Q. Do you recall saying something in	21	
22	connection with that declination?	22	
23	MS. BENTLEY: Objection to form	23	
24	and relevance. Go ahead.	24	1
25	A. I recall a number of different things that	25	
i		_	

EXHIBIT J

FORM NLRB-508

(9-07)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

CHARGE AGAINST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

FURNLEA	EMPT UNDER 44 0.5.C. 351
DO NOT VIRIT	e in this space
Case	Date Filed
8-CB-11433	5/11/11

OR ITS AGENTS INSTRUCTIONS: File an original together with four copies and a copy for each additional charged party named in item 1 with the NLRB

Regional Director for the region in which the alleged un		
LABOR ORGANIZATION O B Name	K IIS AGENTS AGAINS!	WHICH CHARGE IS BROUGHT b Union Representative to contact
Teamsters Local 3?7		Justin Averelle
Tempstets Down D. I		Justin Aveletic
c. Telephone No d. Address (stres	t, city, state and ZIP code)	
330-743-3111 1223 Teamst	ers Dr., Youngstown, (OH 44502
within the meaning of the Aci, or these unital labor practices are t	onal Labor Relations Act, and the mini practices affecting commerce wit	se unfair labor practices are unfair practices affecting commerce thin the meaning of the Act and the Postal Reorganization Act.
2. Busis of the Charge (set forth a alson and exacts) statement of	the facts considuring the alterest i	nafar-labor practical)
	a = 9 a = 6 50.	A B P . I I I AND I I II
Since on or about November 17, 2010, and correpresentatives, restrained and coerced, and is a self-organization, to form, join or assist representatives of their own choosing, and a bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, or Section 7 of the said Act. Specifically, the Unit On or about November 17, 2010, it, a labor or Bottling Co. d/b/a 7 Up Bottling Co. to discrimand (2) whose membership in the said labor periodic dues uniformly required as a condition	restraining and coercing, labor o engage in other cond to refrain from any or all on terminated Potts members amization, by its officers inate against Robert Pottorganization was terminated.	an employee of, in the exercise of rights to organizations, to bargain collectively through certed activities for the purpose of collective il such activities, which rights are guaranteed in bership and failed to represent him. s, agents, and representatives, caused American
		A) de
3. Name of Employer	with.	4 Telephone No.
American Bottling Co. d/b/a 7 Up Bottling	Co.	330-799-9705
		Fax. No. 17/20 -7-1/
		V (330) (99 - 7064
5 Location of plant involved (street, city, state, and ZIP co. 1142 North Mandian Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44509	6/Employer representative to contact Mike Bobal, Associate HR Mgr	
7 Type of establishment (factory, mine, wholesaler, etc.)	8 Identify principal product of	
warehouse	bevarages	50
10 Full name of party filing charge		
Robert Potts		
	D	45 Talasha - No. 200 000 0400
11. Address of party flling charge (sheet, city, state and Zli	P code)	12 Telephone No. 330-856 6103
4143 Jeanette Dr., Warren, OH 44484		Fax No.
By Signature of representative or person making charge)	198	rus to the best of my knowledge and belief. An Individual (Frint/type name and title or office, if any)
Address 4143 Jeanette Dr., Warren, OH 44484	330-856-610	1 5/7/2011
MULTER "ITT JESTICHE DI, VISITETI UN 41401		
		phone No.) (date)

Solicitation of the information on this form is antihorized by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. § 151 et seq. The precipilatuse of the information is to assist the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in processing unfair labor positive and related proceedings or highlightons. The routine uses for the information are fully set forth in the Federal Register, 71 fed Reg. 74942-43 (Dec. 13, 2046). The NLRB with further applain these asias upon request. Disclosure of this information to the NLRB is voluntary, however, failure to supply the information will cause the NLRB to decline to invoke its processes.



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT POTTS,)
Plaintiff,) Case No. 5:12-cv-02688-JRA
v.) Judge John R. Adams
AMERICAN BOTTLING COMPANY, et al.,)
Defendants.	<i>)</i>)

DEFENDANTS' JOINT MOTION FOR SANCTIONS UNDER RULE 11

Defendants The American Bottling Company ("ABC") and Teamsters Local No. 377 ("the Union" or "Local 377"), pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, respectfully move this Court to impose sanctions against Plaintiff and his attorney, David Engler, for asserting claims without a factual and legal basis. In support of this Motion, ABC and the Union state as follows:

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- ABC employed Plaintiff Robert Potts as a Warehouse Loader at its Youngstown,
 Ohio facility from July 2007 through December 2010.
- 2. Plaintiff was a member of the Union, and therefore his employment at ABC was governed, in part, by a collective bargaining agreement (the "CBA").
- 3. Article 14, Section 1 of the CBA provides that, "in the event of temporary layoffs classification seniority shall prevail." Classification seniority refers to the department in which an employee worked, such as warehouse, delivery, merchandising. An employee on temporary layoff did not lose his or her seniority until after a period of one year from the date of the temporary layoff. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. Ex. 4 & 5, Art. 14, Sec. 13.) Only in the event of a permanent layoff does plant-wide seniority govern. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. Ex. 4 & 5, Art. 14, Sec. 1.)

- 4. On September 21, 2009, ABC placed Plaintiff on a temporary layoff due to a lack of work. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶5.)
- 5. On August 30, 2010, Plaintiff filed Grievance No. 11823, claiming back wages owed as a result of an alleged improper temporary layoff. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. Ex. 7.)
- 6. During a September 14, 2010 grievance meeting, ABC offered Plaintiff a Merchandising position. (Ex. A, Sept. 14, 2010 grievance meeting notes.)
- 7. On September 21, 2010, Plaintiff filed Grievance No. 11824 claiming ABC terminated his seniority without cause and wrongfully discharged him. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. Ex. 8.)
- 8. On September 30, 2010, ABC made its employment offer to Plaintiff in writing. Specifically, ABC offered to convert Plaintiff's temporary layoff into a permanent layoff effective October 15, 2010 and give Plaintiff the opportunity to exercise his contractual rights to "bump by seniority" based on his plant-wide seniority. (Ex. B, ABC's Sept. 30, 2010 Correspondence.) In the offer letter, ABC stated that based on seniority the position would be a Merchandiser position. (*Id.*) ABC's offer letter required Plaintiff to respond, in writing, within 15 working days whether he intended to accept the offer. (*Id.*)
- 9. On October 2 and 6, 2010, Plaintiff wrote to Local 377 and requested that the Union withdraw Grievance No. 11823. (Ex. C, Oct. 2 and 6, 2010 Correspondence.) In his October 2, 2010 correspondence, Plaintiff also stated: "This serves to advise that I am in receipt of the Company's letter date 9/30/2010, mailed via USPS Certified Mail #7002-0510-000-7491-2152, postmarked October 1, 2010." (*Id.*)
- 10. On October 12, 2010, Local 377 confirmed in writing that Grievance No. 11823 had been withdrawn. (Ex. D, Oct. 12, 2010 Correspondence.)

- 11. On October 15, 2010, Plaintiff wrote to ABC, but did not state his intention, one way or another, concerning the Merchandising position. (Ex. E, Plaintiff's July 6, 2011 Deposition (Pl. Dep.), 228:8-229:14; Ex. F, Oct. 15, 2010 correspondence).
- 12. As of October 21, 2010, ABC had still not received an answer from Plaintiff concerning its employment offer (15 working days after ABC's September 30, 2010 correspondence). Therefore, ABC extended Plaintiff's deadline to respond to the offer. (Ex. G, Nov. 10, 2010 correspondence). However, ABC still received no response from Plaintiff concerning the offer.
- 13. On October 22, 2010, Plaintiff wrote to the Union accusing the Union of "failing to act solely in the interest of the grievant, and refusing to protect my interest in all dealings with my Employer by way of refusing to process my grievance #11824" (Ex. H, October 22, 2010 Correspondence.)
- 14. Accordingly, effective December 1, 2010, ABC terminated Plaintiff's employment pursuant to Article 14, Section 7, point D of the CBA, which provides:

Any employee shall lose his seniority (terminated from employment):

. . .

D. If he fails to return to work within three (3) days after notice from the Company to return unless circumstances beyond his control prevent him from notifying the Company within three (3) days. Such notice shall be made by registered letter.

(Ex. I, Dec. 13, 2010 correspondence; Ex. 4 & 5.)

- 15. During his deposition in Case No. 4:11-cv-00149-KSM, Plaintiff testified that:
 - He could not identify a single employee having less seniority than he did and who was hired into the Warehouse Department during Plaintiff's temporary layoff, and conceded that, as of September 14, 2010, he remained the least seniority in the Warehouse Department. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep., 194:13-196:21; 209:20-211:21; 220:21-221:16.)

- He had received ABC's September 30, 2010 offer letter and never responded to ABC's offer, even though he *did* correspond with ABC after receiving the offer letter. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep. 197:11-198:1; 228:8-229:14.)
- He withdrew Grievance No. 11823. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep. 196:22-198:1; 225:2-226:10; 230:13-22; 233:8-9.)
- He knew as of November 17, 2010 that the Union had allegedly ceased acting on his behalf. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep. 243, 249-250.)
- 16. On May 7, 2011, Plaintiff filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board in which he signed a Declaration asserting, among other things, that the Union had allegedly "failed to represent him." (Ex. J, Pl. NLRB Charge.)
- 17. On or about October 26, 2011, Plaintiff and ABC entered into a settlement agreement for Case No. 4:11-cv-00149-KSM, whereby Potts released all claims that he had or may have had against ABC, subject to certain specific and delineated exceptions. Specifically, only Grievances 11823 and 4956 were excluded from the release. (Dkt. 20, Settlement Agreement.) Therefore, all other grievances, including Grievance No. 11824, were waived and released by the settlement agreement.
- 18. Despite the above evidence, Plaintiff (through his counsel Mr. Engler) filed the present action under 29 U.S.C. §185, alleging that ABC breached the CBA by failing to provide Plaintiff with his contractual rights to exercise his plant-wide seniority, that Plaintiff was improperly subjected to a temporary layoff and permanent layoff, and that the Union breached its duty to fairly represent him. Plaintiff bases his claims on Grievance Nos. 11823 and 11824. Plaintiff voluntarily withdrew Grievance No. 11823 and voluntarily settled Grievance No. 11824.
- 19. On February 5, 2013, ABC's counsel advised Mr. Engler that Plaintiff's claims lacked a proper factual and legal basis. Further, on April 22, 2013, ABC's and the Union's counsel sent Mr. Engler letters pursuant to Rule 11 and included a copy of this joint Motion.

(Exs. K & L, April 22, 2013 Correspondence from C. McArdle and G. Faulkner, respectively.)

Despite counsel's receipt of this Motion, Plaintiff did not file a motion to dismiss his claims within the requisite twenty-one days.

ARGUMENT

- 20. This Court has jurisdiction to impose sanctions under Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 against Plaintiff and his counsel. Rule 11 provides, in relevant part:
 - (a) Representations to the Court. By presenting to the court (whether by signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating) a petition, pleading, written motion, or other paper, an attorney or unrepresented party is certifying that to the best of the person's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, -
 - (1) it is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation;
 - (2) the claims, defenses, and other legal contentions therein are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law;
 - (3) the allegations and other factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and
 - (4) the denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on a lack of information or belief.
- 21. Rule 11 requires that an attorney certify to the best of his or her "knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances . . . [that] the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery." FED. R. CIV. P. 11(b).
- 22. In the Sixth Circuit, the test for imposing Rule 11 sanctions is whether the individual's conduct was reasonable under the circumstances. *Apostolic Pentecostal Church v.*

Colbert, 169 F.3d 409, 417 (6th Cir. 1999). Not only does Rule 11 measure what was reasonable conduct at the time of pleading, it imposes a "continuing responsibility to review and reevaluate . . . pleadings and where appropriate modify them to conform to Rule 11." Merritt v.

International Ass'n of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, 613 F.3d 609, 626 (6th Cir. 2010)

(citing Runfola & Assoc., Inc. v. Spectrum Reporting II, Inc., 88 F.3d 368, 374 (6th Cir. 1996)).

- 23. Sanctions imposed under Rule 11 are intended to be an integral aspect of the judicial process, and the Sixth Circuit has shown no reluctance to impose them where counsel failed to properly investigate the factual basis of a client's claims after a reasonable opportunity to do so. *See Merritt*, 613 F.3d at 626; *Andretti v. Borla Performance Indus., Inc.*, 426 F.3d 824, 835 (6th Cir. 2005); *Mann v. G & G Mfg., Inc.*, 900 F.2d 953, 960 (6th Cir. 1990) (in affirming award of sanctions, noting, "[a] reasonable pre-filing inquiry would have revealed these facts to plaintiff's counsel.").
- 24. In this lawsuit, Plaintiff claims that ABC hired new employees with "less plantwide seniority" (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶ 7), but plant-wide seniority does not govern temporary layoffs, as plainly stated in Article 14 Section 1 of CBA. (Dkt. 1, Exs. 4&5). Further, even after engaging in discovery through the prior lawsuit (which concerned the same common facts), Plaintiff could not identify any employees with less seniority (either classification or plant-wide seniority) who were placed into the Warehouse Loader position during his temporary layoff. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep., 194:13-196:21; 209:20-211:21; 220:21-221:16). Plaintiff conceded that even as of September 14, 2010, he had the least seniority in the Warehouse Department. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep., 209:20-211:2). Plaintiff has no legitimate factual basis to assert that his temporary layoff was improper.

- 25. Plaintiff further claims that "[ABC] failed an refused to afford Potts his contractual rights to avoid being placed on permanent lay-off by exercising his plant-wide seniority." (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶ 8). This allegation also has no basis in fact. It is undisputed that ABC offered Plaintiff the opportunity to use his plant-wide seniority to "bump" into a Merchandiser position, and that Plaintiff received ABC's offer and did not act upon it.
- 26. Even so, there is no active grievance supporting his claim under 29 U.S.C. §185. As to Grievance 11824, the Settlement Agreement that Plaintiff executed in Case No. 4:11-cv-00149-KSM, unambiguously provides that the only grievances that survive are Grievance Nos. 11823 and 4956. As such, Grievance 11824 is a nullity.
- 27. As to Grievance 11823, Plaintiff withdrew this grievance. Indeed, in correspondence dated October 2 and 6, 2010 to the Union, Plaintiff requested that the Union withdraw this grievance, and the Union confirmed the withdrawal of this grievance in correspondence dated October 12, 2010. (Ex. C, October 2, 2010, October 6, 2010, and October 12, 2010 Correspondence.) Moreover, Plaintiff admitted under oath that he withdrew this grievance. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep., 196:22-198:1; 225:2-226:10; 230:13-22; 233:8-9). As such, Grievance No. 11823 is also a nullity.
- 28. In sum, by virtue of Plaintiff's own conduct, he has no active grievances upon which he can pursue his §301 claim and therefore the claim is barred by his failure to exhaust the grievance procedure. *Delcostello v. International Brotherhood of Teamsters*, 462 U.S. 151, 163 (1983); *Winston v. General Drivers, Warehousemen & Helpers, Local 89*, 93 F.3d 251, 255 (6th Cir. 1996); *Poole v. Budd Co.*, 706 F.2d 181, 183 (6th Cir. 1983) ("It is axiomatic that an aggrieved employee must exhaust any exclusive grievance and arbitration procedures in a collective bargaining agreement prior to bringing a §301(a) suit against the employer."); *Aaron*

- v. Ford Motor Company, 2011 WL 2149419, *2 (N.D. Ohio) (citing Wiggins v. Chrysler Corp., 728 F. Supp. 463, 466 (N.D. Ohio, 1989)).
- Even setting aside the above facts, Plaintiff's claims are without merit for the simple fact that his claims are time barred. The statute of limitations for hybrid §301 claims is six months. It is well settled that the statute begins to run when an employee knew or should of known of the alleged acts given rise to the cause of action. *Garrish v. Int'l Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America*, 417 F.3d 590, 594 (6th Cir. 2005).
- 30. Here, Plaintiff asserts that the Union breached its duty of fair representation by failing to process his grievances and by only processing grievances for "politically favored individuals." (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶11.) According to his own allegations, Plaintiff knew of this alleged conduct as early as February 2012 eight months before he filed his Complaint. (Dkt. 1, Cmpl. ¶11.)
- However, Plaintiff's own admissions and conduct reveal that he actually knew of the alleged conduct long before this. On October 22, 2010, Plaintiff wrote to the Union accusing the Union of "failing to act solely in the interest of the grievant, and refusing to protect my interest in all dealings with my Employer by way of refusing to process my grievance #11824" (Ex. H, October 22, 2010 Correspondence.) Plaintiff also testified under oath that he knew as of November 17, 2010 that the Union had allegedly ceased acting on his behalf. (Ex. E, Pl. Dep., 243, 249-250.) Furthermore, on May 7, 2011, Plaintiff filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board in which he signed a Declaration asserting, among other things, that the Union had allegedly "failed to represent him." (Ex. J, NLRB Charge.) Given these facts, Plaintiff had

until either May 2011 or, at the latest, October 2011, to file his action. As he did not file the

Complaint until October 26, 2012, his claims are time barred.

32. As evidenced herein, by maintaining his claims, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel

failed to comply with standards of legal practice in this Circuit, and thus sanctions are

appropriate under Rule 11.

33. After having made more than one unsuccessful attempt to persuade Plaintiff's

counsel to voluntarily dismiss Plaintiff's claims, ABC and Local 377 jointly request that the

Court impose sanctions against Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c),

including, but not limited to, dismissal of the Complaint. Defendants further requests that those

sanctions include an award of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees associated with its efforts to

resolve this without court intervention and the preparation of this motion.

WHEREFORE, Defendants The American Bottling Company and Teamsters Local 377

respectfully request that this Court impose sanctions against David L. Engler and Plaintiff for

maintaining the claims in Plaintiff's Complaint, that Plaintiff's claims be dismissed in their

entirety, that Defendants be awarded reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, and any other relief

that the Court deems appropriate.

DATED: May 13, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN BOTTLING COMPANY

By s/ Cintra B. McArdle

One of Its Attorneys

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TEAMSTERS LOCAL NO. 377

By s/ George H. Faulkner
One of Its Attorneys

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